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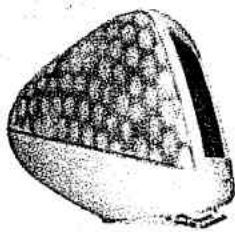
# Woroni

Howard's family values  
+ free pornography

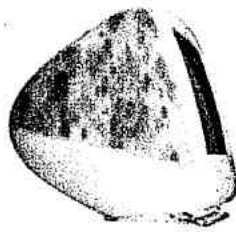
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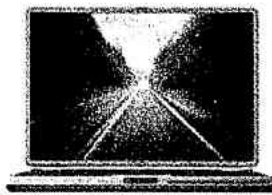
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woroni is the official paper of the ANU students' association, but we still have alternative cred. we're always on the lookout for new contributors. contact us on 6248 7127 (phone), 6125 3967 (fax) or at [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au). feel free to drop into our office in the students' association building, next to chifley library.

the opinions expressed in woroni are not necessarily those of the editors or of the students' association, which has none. feel free to come and abuse the editors in person. fuck, bring a friend and a flow chart.

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some of our friends have become obsessed with mullet spotting. **fi fi the fe-mullet** and **ernest mullet-hobson** investigate.

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aids has ravaged the african continent, and many sufferers cannot afford the expensive medicine. **charlie ward** discusses the battle against aids drug patents.

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cover:



## a room with a view

mark thomson

University Accommodation Services and the International Education Office have been referring students, unable to obtain a place in halls or colleges, to the Macquarie Hotel, which is used by welfare agencies.

Gilbert Hennequin, from the International Education Office, claims that he has referred half a dozen students to the hotel and knows of others who have gone independently. "I would never view Macquarie as better than living on campus," he said "It's a place we're using as a default, because it's unlikely that we will be able to fit in all the students who are coming this semester." Mr. Hennequin expects an influx of two hundred and fifty students next semester, and is unsure where many of them will live.

A team of *Woroni* reporters posing as investigative journalists photographed conditions in the student wing of the hotel. They found dangling wallpa-

per, taped up windows and inadequate kitchen and shower facilities.

The Macquarie Hotel charges students \$126.50 a week. More salubrious accommodation in a non-catered residential college costs around \$90,

which includes social events, pastoral and academic support and central location.

University Accommodation Services were unavailable for comment.



ANU students are still waiting for accommodation on campus.

## NUS budget deficit controversy

mathew kenneally

The National Union of Students (NUS) serves as the representative body for tertiary students in Australia. Universities which are affiliated with the Union pay fees in exchange for the right to send voting delegates to the NUS National Conference.

*Woroni* has learned that NUS is running a budget deficit of approximately \$350,000. The projected income for NUS is 1.45 million dollars, while projected expenditure is 1.8 million dollars.

NUS General Secretary Lizzy Blandthorn confirmed that the budget was in deficit. She stated that NUS was spending more money this year on campaigns than in previous years. According to Ms. Blandthorn

the opponents of the budget deficit have argued that it is irresponsible for NUS to spend more than their estimated income. Supporters of the budget have argued that the estimates for income were low and thus the extra expenditure was justified.

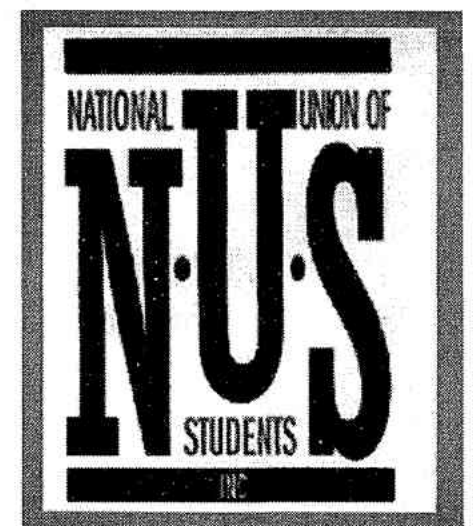
NUS Education Officer Kate Davidson also commented. According to Ms. Davidson it is "arguable as to whether or not the budget is in deficit". Ms. Davidson stated that members of the finance committee considered the projected income of 1.4 million dollars to be a conservative estimate, and thus felt that NUS could spend 1.8 million dollars without ending up in deficit.

Ms. Davidson added that historically NUS has received 2.1 million dollars

in revenue, and there are no anomalies to suggest that they will not receive enough to balance their budget this year.

However, Ms. Davidson confirmed that university campuses where Voluntary Student Unionism has been introduced (in Victoria and Western Australia) have often struggled to pay their affiliation fees. Ms. Davidson said that this "along with the fact that the National Union of Students does not have the means nor resources to act as a nasty bill collector" makes it difficult for the organization to make concrete estimates regarding income.

The National Union of Students budget is a public document and is available to member campuses.



The National Union of Students supplies glossy agit prop to anyone who asks.

## chris patten opens national europe centre

simon barber

ANU's latest research extension, the National Europe Centre, was opened by Commissioner Patten on Thursday 19 April. The ceremony took place on the Acton Peninsula at the site where the new Centre is to be constructed. Present for the occasion were Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, Senator Margaret Reid, European ambassadors, and ANU staff. The Centre is to be financed by a \$4 million contribution from the EU which will be matched by the ANU.

Mr Patten is well known for his role

as the last Governor of Hong Kong before the hand over to China in 1997, and his current position is the European Union's Commissioner for External Relations. He commemorated the inauguration with the planting of a tree at the site overlooking Lake Burley Griffin. In his speech he emphasised the role that the new Centre will play in enhancing already strong relations between the Australian and European communities. He also hoped that the Centre would promote future progresses in higher education. In reference to the design for the Centre, Commissioner Patten said

he hoped it would be "even more beautiful than your new National Museum".

Minister Downer spoke about the European Union's involvement in the development of the Asia Pacific Region, and talked about how the new Centre would further this involvement. In reference to funding for the National Europe Centre, he remarked that the "ANU is still funded heavily, some say too heavily, by the Federal Government."

The Director of the Centre, Professor Elim Papadakis, told *Woroni* that

undergraduates could benefit from the Centre through lectures by visiting academics and access to a documentation resources library. He also hoped to organise a global environment conference within three years.

However Students' Association President Maciej Wasilewicz showed concern, saying that, "Although good for postgrads and research, any problems inherent to the research schools not participating in teaching undergraduates are likely to be reflected in the new Centre."

## in brief

## law students, take heed

In March, Charles Douglas Stephens Jr., was acquitted in Panama City, after only 15 minutes' deliberation, apparently because the jury accepted his indignant denial that he had ever robbed a convenience store. Stephens had pointed out to police that he had served time for murder and that he would probably murder again if the circumstances warranted, but that he could not have robbed the Circle K convenience store because he would never have been "stupid enough" to leave witnesses alive. Well, that does make sense...

## nice work, artists

Specially commissioned Braille posters with the theme of equal treatment for the blind were on display this winter at the Truro Leisure Center (Truro, England) and the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta) human resources department. However, sighted people cannot read the posters because the words are only in Braille, and the blind cannot read the posters because in both locations the limited-edition posters were hung on the wall behind glass covers, to "protect" them. At least equal treatment was given to the blind, in that no one at all could read the posters.

## do you believe in magic?

In a decision published earlier this year, Canada's Tax Court rejected Newfoundland magician Hans Zahn's attempt to claim business losses on his income tax returns, ruling that Zahn's record of losing money for the last 17 years, plus the province's economy and the nature of its far-flung communities, urge the conclusion that no reasonable person would think Newfoundland could support a magician. Zahn said he once earned about \$1,200 (USD) a week but started suffering setbacks, for example, the rabbits he used in his act started dying in the frigid Newfoundland winters. "You try to bring world-class entertainment to the regions," lamented Zahn, "and Revenue Canada (the taxing agency) penalizes you for it." But it's always the rabbits that suffer.

## should i stay, or should i go?

59-year-old man was accidentally run over and torn in half by a slow-moving tractor-trailer at a gas station in West Pensacola, on March 22, but according to a Pensacola News Journal report, the torso portion continued to show signs of life, and paramedics airlifted it to the West Florida Regional Medical Center, where the man was not pronounced dead until about 3 1/2 hours later. Said a truck driver-witness: "I couldn't believe it. If you're cut in half, wouldn't you die instantly?" Well, apparently not...

## melbourne demonstration turns ugly

matthew kenneally

74 students chose to occupy the Vice Chancellors office at Melbourne University in order to protest against the corporatisation of the university. This action took place on April 6<sup>th</sup> following a protest held on the National Day of Action. During the occupation the students caused over \$100,000 worth of damage. The administration insists that they intend to hold the students responsible for this damage, with the possibility of expelling a number of them from the university.

The students used axes to break into the administration building. The damage they committed once inside the building included the destruction of office equipment and documents. The students also spray-painted graffiti on the carpet and walls. One message claimed that, "Capitalism is organised crime, you're [the administration] a capitalist you are guilty".

In the Melbourne Age Vice Chancellor Alan Gilbert criticised the activists stating that, "The university encourages robust debate and respects and welcomes lawful protest as a proper

expression of dissent by students". However, he added that violent entry, vandalism, and intimidation would not be tolerated. Gilbert emphasised that the students had intimidated staff members, "I believe staff when they tell me it was traumatic. When people break down fire doors with axes is every reason for them to be concerned about their personal safety".

According to Melbourne University Student Union President Eve Bodsworth the students responsible for the damage have acquired free legal advice. Bodsworth said several younger students who attended the rally and were unaware of the possibility that vandalism would occur were "apprehensive". Miss Bodsworth also added that the Union had not endorsed the occupation and while "[I] believe that occupations are a legitimate form of protest I felt the media reporting and the consequences of this one were have not been productive for the student movement".

The National Union Students has offered its support to the students in-

involved in the occupation. While, NUS education officer Kate Davidson did not endorse the occupation outright she stated that, "NUS supports students taking direct action to defend their right to an education".

Kate Davidson provided *Woroni* with a statement of support for the activists which had been endorsed by both the National Education Committee, and the National NUS Executive. The document endorsed the action taken by the Melbourne students and called for the University to drop the charges against the students.

The NUS document argued that, "The response of the VCs and the government also has another aim — to divert attention away from the real issues raised by the NDA, namely their appalling policies, and onto the issue of 'violence'."

NUS stated that they would support the students in their direct action but also added that "None of this precludes rigorous debate about strategy and tactics in activist meetings."

## medical school set for the ANU

amber beavis

It was announced on 10<sup>th</sup> April that ANU would be the site of the new medical school planned for the ACT. Expected to open in 2004, the school will have a focus on rural medical practice and will operate under a graduate entry program, similar to those systems already in place at the University of Melbourne, Sydney University and Flinders University.

The school will admit 240 students and will build upon the resources already in place at ANU, making use of pre-existing organisations including the divisions of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Botany and Zoology, the Research School of Biological Sciences and the John Curtin School of Medical Research in order to extend the curriculum and facilities available.

Currently, ANU is involved in discussions with the Federal, ACT and NSW Governments in order to finalise funding arrangements and to establish links with local health services and hospitals.

Professor Chubb has also indicated that he is committed to developing a collaborative relationship with the University of Canberra in order to create a school which is in touch with community needs as well as of being of a high standard. Professor Chubb said that "the school will be an important teaching and research centre that will build on the work of the existing University of Sydney Canberra Clinical School and medical research already in place in Canberra".



As a centre for rural communities in South-Eastern NSW, Canberra is seen as an ideal site for a medical school which may supply doctors to otherwise inadequately resourced rural areas.

## new youth framework announced

alex brzostowski

The ACT Chief Minister Garry Humphries plans to increase spending on youth in the new ACT budget.

The Minister confirmed that the Budget will provide \$11.637 million over four years, with \$3.068 million in 2001-2002, for a range of initiatives to improve the education and health of young people and those with special needs.

Mr Humphries however acknowledged that, "Some young people remain at risk of falling through the cracks of mainstream society."

Mr Humphries said that in the field of education, the 2001-02 Budget will fund a range of initiatives putting education online and helping students with special needs.

The package included: \$500,000 to develop an Internet-based online virtual campus of CIT programs; \$600,000 over four years to the development of online curriculum through a joint Federal and Territory government project; \$839,000 will be provided over the next four years to support students at risk of early school leaving; \$400,000 over four years for

50 scholarships for financially disadvantaged students.

The package also includes a grant of \$414,000 to the Smith Family's Learning for Life program. Smith family regional manager Bill Morris stated that the grant would allow them, "to help students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to unlock opportunities which will allow them to achieve a greater quality of life." "Overall this is a very good package that will inject benefit into the ACT community for many years to come," Mr Morris said.

## hollingworth the wrong choice

alastair lawrie

In the same way Don Bradman was posthumously judged the greatest Australian of all-time, rather than merely a man who hit a leather ball with a wooden bat, all forms of media have unquestioningly endorsed John Howard's choice of Archbishop Peter Hollingworth as our next head of state. There has been little, if any, public criticism of his nomination as Governor-General (Natasha Stott-Despoja was belittled for raising even the slightest objection).

This is a disgrace, considering the significance of the most powerful constitutional position in Australia being filled by a church figure for the first time. It leaves me wondering whether I am the only person who is saddened, shocked, disgusted, angered, appalled, horrified (and any other synonym found in my computer's thesaurus) by this occurrence. I sincerely hope not.

This is because the selection of Hollingworth, primarily due to his seniority within the Anglican faith, goes against one of the fundamental principles of democracy—the separation of church and state. I, like other thinkers from the Renaissance/Enlightenment onwards, believe the divide between organised religion and government is absolutely necessary to protect people from the evils of theocracy. If you don't know what theocracy is, imagine Pope PPII, with his conservative, bigoted views, making laws for a country and, irrespective of their religion, its citizens being unable to question them.

The involvement of the Church, or any body of any religion, in political affairs is a guaranteed way to inflict oppression on those not sharing 'official' beliefs and, ultimately, to generate conflict (think violence in Northern Ireland, revolution in Iran, civil war in Afghanistan — the list is potentially endless).

It is for this reason Australia's constitution does not include a state religion, despite the fact Australia's population was overwhelmingly Christian (Protestant or Catholic) in 1901. Instead, the 'founding fathers' included a provision which implicitly protected people's freedom of religious choice (Section 116). This is also why the Prime Minister, in consultation with the King/Queen, has traditionally chosen a former politician, judge or military leader (also quite problematic, but a separate issue here) to be head of state, and not a cleric.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001, John Howard disregarded the sum total of this historical experience to nominate Hollingworth as G-G. In my opinion, this was a sadder day for Australian democracy than November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999 (the day the Republic referendum was defeated) and possibly even November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1975 (when Jim Kerr dismissed the democratically-elected Gough Whitlam/Labor government).

This last example illustrates the

extraordinary powers Hollingworth will possess from June 29<sup>th</sup>. I am not nearly so cynical or pessimistic to suggest that he will exercise his authority for a religious purpose (eg refusing to assent to pro-abortion, pro-gay marriage or pro-'anything else progressive' legislation because it is against God's law), merely noting that he could. This is enough of a danger, I think, to rule out his candidacy.

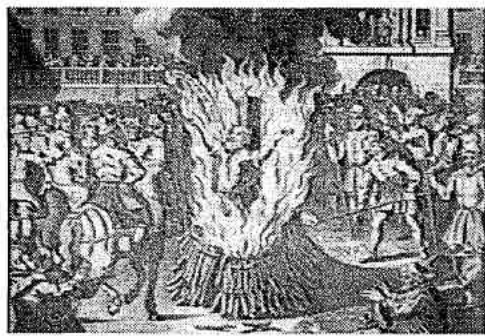
The appointment of Hollingworth must also be seen in the context of a worrying trend away from the separation of church and state. In the past 18 months we've seen Howard attempt to put "[w]ith hope in God" in our constitution's preamble; church-run employment agencies granted government funding while

discriminating against lesbians, gay men and 'heathens'; high court intervention by churches opposing IVF-access for single women and lesbians; and 'special rights' given to churches to appeal

copyright ratings. Pass me yet one more nail to hammer into the coffin of our democracy.

Another important function of the G-G, amply demonstrated by the outgoing William Deane, is the symbolic representation of the Australian people as a whole. This is something that the Anglican Archbishop cannot do — he will never truly represent Australia's other Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and especially those people with no religion. Please don't get me wrong, I do not have a problem with the private religious beliefs of any G-G, including the Catholic Deane, atheist Bill Hayden or Jewish Isaac Isaacs. However, in the case of Hollingworth, his religion has defined him in public life for over 30 years and, as he has admitted, was appointed as a priest *for life*, a period that obviously includes the next five years.

There are a couple of possible arguments in defence of Hollingworth. First, it would be discrimination to deny him the position of G-G on the basis of his religion. Possibly, but I would argue that senior figures from any religion (Christian, Buddhist or even the head of 'Atheists Australia') should all be prohibited in a very equal way. Second, he has held a number of different posts over the past twenty years, including active social service, representative at the Constitutional Convention and even 1992 Australian of the Year. However, like his new appointment, he filled most of these roles because of his Anglican priesthood, not the other way around. In conclusion, I am pissed off at Howard for breaching the fundamental separation of church and state in such a flagrant manner, and more pissed off at the media (and, in some respects, the general public) for not making a fuss over it. Even more still, I'm worried that, in the words of the Manic Street Preachers, "If you Tolerate this then your Children will be Next."



## kommentatorus

mark thomson

By now every humanist and serious scholar throughout Great Britain and Australia has heard of the work of Professor Fassbinder of the University of Reingelt-Westphalia, whose groundbreaking *Kommentatorus die Litteratur und Spracht* will revolutionise Western criticism and culture. Recently I was able to interview the reticent professor at his holiday house in the bath town of Hottenspaenburg.

Professor Fassbinder explained to me that, "the *Kommentatorus* (or *GUWC* as I prefer to call it) will eventually comprise a complete commentary on every book published in the West, from every recognised critical perspective and school. It will collate all available knowledge on Western culture, becoming the Great Unifying Work of Criticism." So, for instance, students of T.S. Eliot would be able to access, in the *Kommentatorus*, every possible interpretation of the *Four Quartets*: Freudian, Leavisite, Biographical, Historicist, New Historicist, Feminist (liberal, separatist and cultural), Marxist, Maoist, Existentialist, Fishite, Foucaultian, Thomist and Derridean. Fassbinder's commentary will extend in sequential volumes throughout the whole of Western culture. Once it is finished, the *Kommentatorus* will be completely comprehensive and will supersede all previous works of criticism. The undertaking is immense. In general, Professor Fassbinder explained, "A single line of text produces three to five lines of gloss; this means we are obliged to publish at least three pages of criticism for every page of original writing published in the West, just to keep up with the task of glossing new books, let alone working on the critical deficit of three millennia of original literary production."

The Institute Omnium established by Professor Fassbinder has ingeniously solved this seemingly impossible problem. Private donors have established a sinking fund which should enable Fassbinder to increase the number of his commentators by at least five percent a year, barring global recession. Fassbinder predicts that, by 2030, his seven thousand scholars will be somewhere between Fichte and the early Keats. The Professor believes that his project will catch on, speeding up the process: "Other universities and journals will amalgamate with us once they realise that we are only systematising what they are already doing. If we can grab someone like Harold Bloom we could really up the pace. That man can criticise anything." Professor Fassbinder hopes that the offer of academic sinecures will deflect many from uncertain careers as novelists, playwrights or poets: "The last thing we need is another prolific genius like Balzac. Between him, Proust and Dame Cartland we had to add three years to the original projections".

Critics claim that Fassbinder's estimations are optimistic. Professor Gruntbund of the University of Wotan-East Saxony argues that "all it takes is for some French hack to found a new critical theory and Fassbinder's minions will have their work increased exponentially; they'll have to regloss the

entirety of Western civilisation from a new critical perspective." Professor Gruntbund added ominously that, "I myself have talked to three French intellectuals who are planning to recant their ideas and begin over, just out of spite."

At the outset, Fassbinder was obliged to halt volumes on buildings, art works and religious ceremonial when he received angry letters from the coffeebook and athiests' sub-committees of the German Writers' Union. "The plan to commentate on everything had to be shelved," he admits. "We're leaving that to cultural theory." An even more serious cloud was cast over the project last year, when the Swedish University of Sigmund-Coeburg started a Universal Commentary Project similar to the *Kommentatorus*.

"You can imagine my horror," said Professor Fassbinder, "every new book was producing three books of commentary from the Swedes. Naturally, we had to commentate on their commentary, or our work would be incomplete. They could have at least tripled our workload." Thankfully the Swedish project was abandoned before it could gloss the *Kommentatorus* itself. The *Kommentatorus* has been beset by infighting. Squabbles over precedence broke out almost immediately. Marxists claimed that all the other commentators were the victims of ideology and (in a provocative multi-media performance poem which interrogated the meaning of identity, race and gender) the Poststructuralists retorted that the Marxist were labouring under an "outdated meta-narrative inappropriate in our post-modern milieu". Fassbinder admits that he ruthlessly segregated the departments after several such arguments: "We tried having symposia and so on, but none of them could understand each other and they all seemed to be saying the same thing. It was sad for the liberal humanists though, they tend to find each other a bit dull." Even within departments Fassbinder has had to make divisions to keep the peace. "We have had to split the Marxists into Marxists, Neo-Marxists and Disillusioned Marxists. In the end, the post-structuralists had to be locked in rooms by themselves. It is very inconvenient, but otherwise they get nothing done."

The first three hundred volumes of the *Kommentatorus* (Gilgamesh to Genesis 1.1) have already reached academic libraries and private collectors (mostly Italian semiotics professors). The handsomely bound octavo editions are printed on archival quality paper. As Fassbinder's commentary on the last three millennia is expected to run to seventy thousand volumes, new buildings will be required to house these books.

The Professor has neatly solved this problem: "The *Kommentatorus* will predict all possible criticism and interpretation, so we can ditch the original books to make space for it. After all, there will be no point in reading the originals." In this way, Professor Fassbinder's scholarship will liberate us from the past, which has exercised agonising influence for too long.

the fun starts here

hector berlioz

Wow. A new school. It's kind of like High School, except that it's not. As one of the greasy, vacant-faced freshers to flood the metaphorical gates of this Institution, I have made three surprising observations. But first, let me assure you that I am not winding up for some inane commentary on the novelties that have become a pervading aspect of your lives since starting here. I am not going to be the equivalent of an American tourist, babbling elatedly about being able to actually touch a "koala bear". Even as I write this, I have gotten over the fact that I can't tell the teachers from the students or the militant communists from the hippies. It doesn't matter. **Balls.** My very first impression and therefore the first point I would like to make. The more observant among you may have noticed them around

the place — well, my first encounter with the balls happened while searching for a parking space, just after running over a student (or was it a teacher?). "Shit", I said. "What's with the balls?". Now, I'm not against the use of balls as an object of landscaping, but the attempt seems to be just a little misguided. Where is the marble finish? Where are the funky textures? Where is the detailed pretentiousness that such objects demand? I

couldn't understand how so many people could walk among these scattered concrete balls without crying out at the abomination they really are. I was in emotional and spiritual anguish, that is, until an evil thought crossed my mind. A new game — an elite sport, of my own devising, that I like to call "Professional Chicken". We all know the game of chicken. Take two people, remove brains, and place them in cars facing each other. Whoever has the lowest sense of self-preservation wins, right? Well, imagine that we are able to add to this cretinous sport a certain element of skill. One that involves the large concrete balls, placed

strategically along the road, their distance being just over the width of a single car. So at that trouser-soiling moment when the loser is overcome by panic and swerves to avoid collision, he must also do so carefully and accurately to avoid becoming a piece of landscaping himself. An age-old sport evolves and the balls have a reason for being.

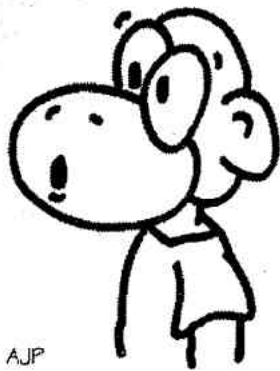
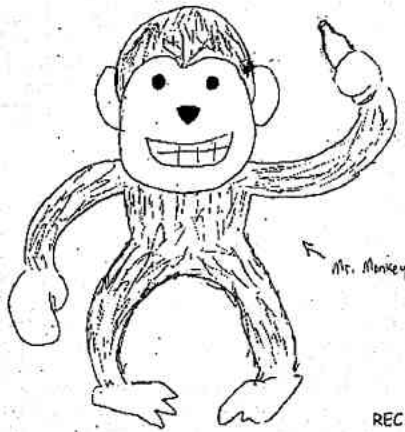
**Naivety.** Ok, ok, I know this one is obvious. And to tell you the truth, I did expect to find some naïve individuals floating around in a comfortable haze of imperception.

What I didn't expect was for it to be so thorough, so all-encompassing, and such an integral part of the O-Week experience. I will begin with the students who take their parents to Uni with them, asking questions to which the answer is inevitably a shrug of the shoulders. So fair enough, you've brought your mother along for some moral

support. That's not a vice in itself. But do you really think she can figure out this place any better than you can? When you run your card through that slot and the red light flashes, denying you access to various educational, sanitary and emergency facilities, your mother can't open the door for you. When you log into ISIS to look at your timetable and find all those sad yellow faces staring back at you, no gem of motherly advice can make them disappear. So figure it out for yourself. Make her proud. And for everyone who has been lost or confused during the week, I offer my own matronly adage: Enjoy it. Just like the girl

I encountered, wandering around the Haydon-Allen Building as if it was the Amazon rainforest. A teacher offered to show her where to go and she curtly stated that she didn't want to know, then turned around and continued in her search. Then there was the guy who, looking for the building to enrol at, came across a massive line of people. Spotting a sandwich board for FOCUS just beside it, he concluded that the multitude were signing up for the Christian group and went to look elsewhere — not even wondering how a place of public education had been so thoroughly overrun by Christians. He then further compounded his disgrace by writing about it in his first submission to *Woroni*.

**Pink Drink.** At the International Students Stand on Market Day. Very yummy. But just what the hell was it?



smoke baby smoke

leo shanahan

In the modern world there are apparently two sins left: racism and smoking. The former I would not touch with a 20-foot pole, the latter I will have a go at.

In the last 20 years the anti smoking pressure group's power has increased immensely. It's gone from a bunch of pissed off non-smokers and doctors, to every second person in the street. If were to ask any non-smoker, or smoker for that matter, if they were for a non-smoking world, chances are they would say yes, whether or not they knew why they said yes.

The only people willing to speak out against this attitude are generally tobacco companies. Here lies a major problem. Smoking is something that almost inherently cannot be defended. If we side with smoking, we side with evil tobacco companies and cancer, and god forbid we criticise the modern day saints of the anti-smoking lobbies. When I mentioned criticism of the anti-smoking lobby to a colleague his response was, "Oh yes, Leo and the tobacco companies are such a nice group of people". This however is not the issue. Just because you criticise anti-smoking lobbies doesn't mean you are siding with tobacco companies. By the same token, just because you try and stop something like smoking does not mean you are necessarily a good person, with pure motives of stopping global cancer. Stop and think about the anti-smoking lobby for a second kids. Many who consider themselves anti-smoking campaigners are very self interested at heart.

If one speaks out against smoking as a being a dangerous vice that is forced upon unsuspecting non-smoking members of the public, most normal people don't really have anything to combat this with. They're also likely to agree with it. I mean we are talking about our health people, and don't forget the safety of the children, won't somebody think of the children!

People who want to make names for themselves pick up on these self righteous campaigns that cannot make themselves look like anything other than top blokes or girls. We can not help thinking that a person trying to stop cancer can be anything but a person with our best interests at heart. I might add that animal welfare is another one of these self righteous categories growing in popularity, "Look into this puppies eyes, now look into mine and tell me I'm not a good person".

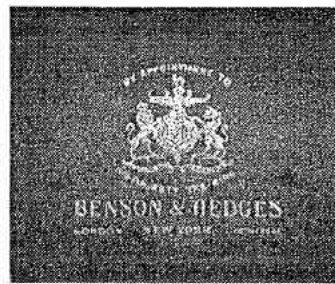
Patrick Mackerras' crusade a couple of years back is a perfect example of this shameless self promotion. Apparently all that was missing from this crusade was a cape and wise crackin side-kick. Mackerras' ban was overturned due to students and pub owners' demands. The utter spinelessness of the Union in this case and a subsequent crusade by Mackerras' at Oxford I find annoying, but understandable. Can we imagine the meeting? "Right everybody it's a choice between lung cancer and healthy long life," says one of the nicotine Nazis, "Well I certainly

don't like cancer and I guess life's pretty good, although I am a student politician, I vote for life."

People are left with little choice in these matters and as a result, pro-smokers or at least people who believe smokers shouldn't be rogered at every given opportunity are put on the scum bag scale somewhere above the Australian Bestiality Association and below the North American Man Boy Love Association.

For me what it comes down to is modern society's inability to deal with the contradiction that we choose to do something that may not be good for us. Well, in the words of the late Bill Hicks, "Get over it cause your gonna die too." Yes people die every day from smoking related illness, and yes it could have been prevented, but fuck me couldn't these educated and enlightened people do something more constructive than stopping people light up cigarettes and dying when they're 75, for example people dying from things like hunger. If Benson & Hedges offered to give every person going to bed hungry tonight a meal and a pack of cigarettes I'd be donating money to them.

One of the major problems anti-smoking lobbyists have is that smoke is imposed upon people who don't want it, thus endangering people who made no choice to smoke. Besides the fact scientific research is at best inconclusive on passive smoking, a play it safe mentality has been increasingly



prevalent in our society. However play it safe is quickly turning into playing it paranoid. Every so often we get a look what happens when you inhale passive smoke story, "Bazza so and so

working in the RSL for the last twenty five years has lung cancer and blames the club." If you've been working in the RSL for the last 25 years cancer and a court case is probably the most exciting thing to happen to you anyway. Smoking according to many is not a choice seeing we try it once were hooked, we can't give it up even if we want to. Whilst there may be some truth in this, the current generation of smokers are aware of the risks and continue to smoke in record numbers. Basically you could sell cigarettes in the hardened lungs and hearts of dead smokers and they'd still sell the things by the dozen. Why this is so I don't know. Whilst cigarettes are obviously addictive the arguments against starting have never been stronger, and more youth are starting then ever. So you can't blame this on cigarettes, this ladies and gentleman is a people problem.

I'm not asking for the destruction of Quit Australia or its related organisations, but we should just think about what were blindly supporting and who they are. Next time your asked by a fellow university student to ban smoking in all deserts less than 5000 square kilometres, just think, why?

## crouching tiger, hidden finger

Dear *Woroni*:

Before I start, I'm going to outline two assumptions.

1) That the Directors of Student Publications (DSPs) do not censor *Woroni* because their friends (and only their friends) don't like it.

2) That I am a self-loathing, oppressed individual who needs to see a 'Gay Pride' councillor.

Let's begin. I am willing to be named as the author of the John Hopoate piss-take that was censored in the last issue of *Woroni*. As the cognoscenti and the DSPs would be well aware, this item was simply a head of John Hopoate (aka Hoppa) which was grafted onto the cover of a gay porn movie called 'Sharp Shooters', which I renamed 'Raiders of the Lost Arse'.

Unfortunately, I didn't realise that it would have offended people, and I thank the censors for protecting my image on campus as a 'sensitive new age fag', or precious fuck (take your pick in terminology). It is only now that I realise how ludicrously naive it was of me to expect to find irony in a situation where a first-grade League player sexually assaults his opponents by slipping a finger (or two) into their sphincter. The fact is, *Woroni*, that until I was censored, I thought that the aforementioned situation was hilarious, and I suppose what I wanted to do was attack the notion of rugby league as a "Real man's game" that "poofs don't play", which I thought was exclusionist, offensive, homophobic and above all tasteless. I am just so sorry that my attempt at "taking the piss" fell into three of those categories itself.

I have learned so much from this incident, and it's all thanks to you wonderful DSPs. I will never again, refer to myself as a 'poofa', 'fag', 'screaming bloody queer' or 'buttfucker', nor will I ever refer to women as 'fish' or (for that matter) refer to those who are heterosexually inclined as 'breeders'. I understand that these terms are deroga-



FEELING DOWN?

FEEL LIKE THE WORLD IS AGAINST YOU?

FEEL AS THOUGH YOU WERE THE WEAKEST

LINK AND THAT STUPID WOMAN SAID

"GOODBYE!" TO YOU USING A REALLY

ANNOYING VOICE?

WHY NOT WRITE TO WORONI? WORONI CARES.\*

\*DISCLAIMER: WORONI MAY NOT ACTUALLY CARE

tory, offensive and that no one finds them amusing. I am just so thankful that the DSPs caught me early, and prevented my misconceptions of humour from evolving any further. I know now (all to well) that this form of humour is unproductive, insensitive and above all 'humourless'.

I promise that in future, all of my work which involves "the community" (I can't say "my" anymore, as I feel that this incident has permanently scarred my ability to be involved in the Canberra queer community), or references to it, will be 100% positive. Following is a joke that I'm working on which, I think, exemplifies the qualities of a real joke:

Q) What do you call a good-looking, race-inspecific, well-dressed man who is sexually attracted to those of his same sex?

A) Camp.

...Like I said, I'm working on it.

Brent Walter.

## contentious census

As Chair of the ANU's discrimination and harassment Census Committee, may I thank *Woroni* for publishing Alexi Metherell's article about the Census (Issue 3, p.5).

Although the article attributes some criticisms of the Census to the NTEU, the Union's advice when the Census opened was that "... the Union considers that it is an important step in the right direction and urges all its members to complete the Census carefully." Indeed, I record with appreciation that consultation with NTEU office holders took place during the development of the Census and many of their amendments and additions were included in the final version.

One reported comment by NTEU President Doug Kelly was that the Census excludes questions of discrimination and harassment of staff by other staff. This is not true. Although the precise words requested by the NTEU in relation to harassment and discrimination were not adopted, the main reason was to ensure they applied to students as well as staff. The possibility of bullying behaviour is specifically referred to in question 29.

On the matter of security of the on-line version of the Census, every possible precaution has been taken to fully protect the confidentiality of the respondent. The processes used are the same as for the enterprise bargaining voting

mechanism of last year. When a respondent clicks on the button to submit a completed questionnaire, all identifiers are stripped from the data prior to storage. The questionnaire guidelines state clearly that respondents must not identify individuals. The purpose of the Census is to provide a base for programs to eliminate discrimination and harassment; it will not allow identification of particular individuals.

Thank you to the three thousand students and staff who have completed the Census to-date. I do hope those who have not yet done so will take this opportunity to influence cultural change across the ANU campus. But don't leave it much longer! We must close off fairly soon.

Professor Peter Bailey

Chair, Census Committee

## college philistine

G'day blokes

I would just like to congratulate all members of the Johns' Inward Bound team, and say that Bruce, Fenner, and Burgmann are fucked. We won IB because we had more ticker than everybody else, Burgmann's ticker ran out on them. I'm sick of Bruce & Fenner complaining about the fact that there was no navigation in IB. We found it hard enough, we occasionally had to avoid buildings or run straight through, never came across anywhere we'd been before, and once came to an intersection. It was tough enough navigation without a three-dimensional map so we could see where the mountains were. The bottom line is Johns Chicks have more ticker than Bruce, Fenner, and Burgmann boys. How often would you see one of their chicks hanging out the sun roof of a car, mooning the colleges as we drive by and honk our horns. This shows ticker. Johns' kids are absolute machines.

Bruce are just a bunch of [redacted] like B&G and Fenner. And Johns will win the sports shield in 2001.

Bazza — A Johns boy

(Not a Bruce Resident).

## fenner response

I would like to add some comments to the article in *Woroni*, concerning Fenner Hall and its residential services. I cannot, of course, comment on most of the article, because it has correctly identified Fenner and other ANU Halls of Residence are not covered by the ACT Tenancy Act. It must be remembered, however that a University Hall of Residence is not simply a form of tenanted accommodation but it has the responsibility to provide a quality community environment in which social and academic development of the individual is the prime aim.

Fenner Hall exists to provide an affordable, comfortable and supportive environment for its residents. It can not do this if it allows those students who meet their financial commitments to subsidise those who do not.

Fenner itself is not subsidised by any central ANU recurrent budget — it must meet its own costs from the fees paid by its residents. It is, however, currently receiving in excess of \$3m from the University's Capital Management Plan for refurbishment.

In mid 2000 there were 190 residents in arrears with their fees — nearly 40% of the Hall!! We do not believe it is responsible for the Hall to encourage students into debt. It is therefore very pleasing that there are now fewer than 10 students remaining in debt and not one student has been asked to leave the Hall. *Woroni* acknowledges that the individual approach we take with students in arrears, has been "by every account" highly successful.

This process enables Fenner to provide better facilities and services for its residents, without increased costs. The kitchens, improved security, upgraded plumbing, heating, lifts and electrical systems, once completed will be a major asset to the Hall and residents. The changes including new AAA water efficient fittings, to reduce water usage and heating by some 40-

in South Africa, 200 of the infected are babies.

45%, plus the change from electricity to gas in the kitchens will have a significant impact on energy consumption and hence operating costs. Fenner supports in a very tangible way Green policies, which happen to be economical for students as well.

Our job at Fenner is to continue to work with all residents to enhance the quality of their life in the Hall. This is more than just our job, it is our vocation.

Jenny Roberts

Head, Fenner Hall

## ruefully naive

Hello I am Ian Veru. My last article was censored. Why do the censors censor things that are true?

[redacted] are undermining society. THIS IS A FACT. Aboriginals are discriminated against by welfare. I care about these people, I want them to get jobs because they won't be using my god-damn tax money to buy luxury goods. Why does everything the cultural left disagree with get censored? Oh yeah and congratulations to all you lefties on attendance at M1. I must say by shutting down mining house for a day that will put a huge dent in the capitalist machine, which pays for all my nice clothes. It's sad that you still think the police started the violence at S11. Sorry, but I side with the police as they have actually passed a psychological examination.

Several people at the S11 protest claimed the police took off their name badges. However, recent evidence indicates the police's name badges were clearly stolen and used as weapons by the protestors. Besides, beating up hippies should be legal.

Ian Veru



## feeling burlesque, baby?

The musical makes a comeback with Baz Lurhman's art-house approach to the stylish strip-club. *Moulin Rouge* tells of Christian, a young poet, who is plunged into the heady world of the 19th century mens' club. In this seedy world, he begins a passionate and dangerous affair with the club's highest paid star and courtesan, Satin.



*Woroni*, in conjunction with Greater Union Cinemas, is giving away in-season passes to *Moulin Rouge*. Just come into the *Woroni* office and give us a rendition of your favourite show tune. Extra bohemian-cool points for costume.

## Publish and be damned

Don't rely on Ma and Pa to save you from the Establishment. Get yourself kicked out by writing for a paper with buckets of alternative cred.

The next Contributors' Meeting is on Thursday 24th of May at 5pm in the Students' Association Conference Room. Or email:

[woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au)

If you bring a friend, your first seven shares in the *Woroni* pyramid scheme are free.















Who knows, you may end up writing for the 'metros.

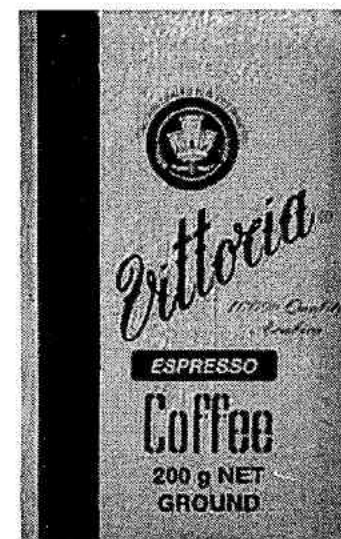


Would you like the chance to win \$25 000 by drinking coffee?

## Calypso Coffee Lounge Cash

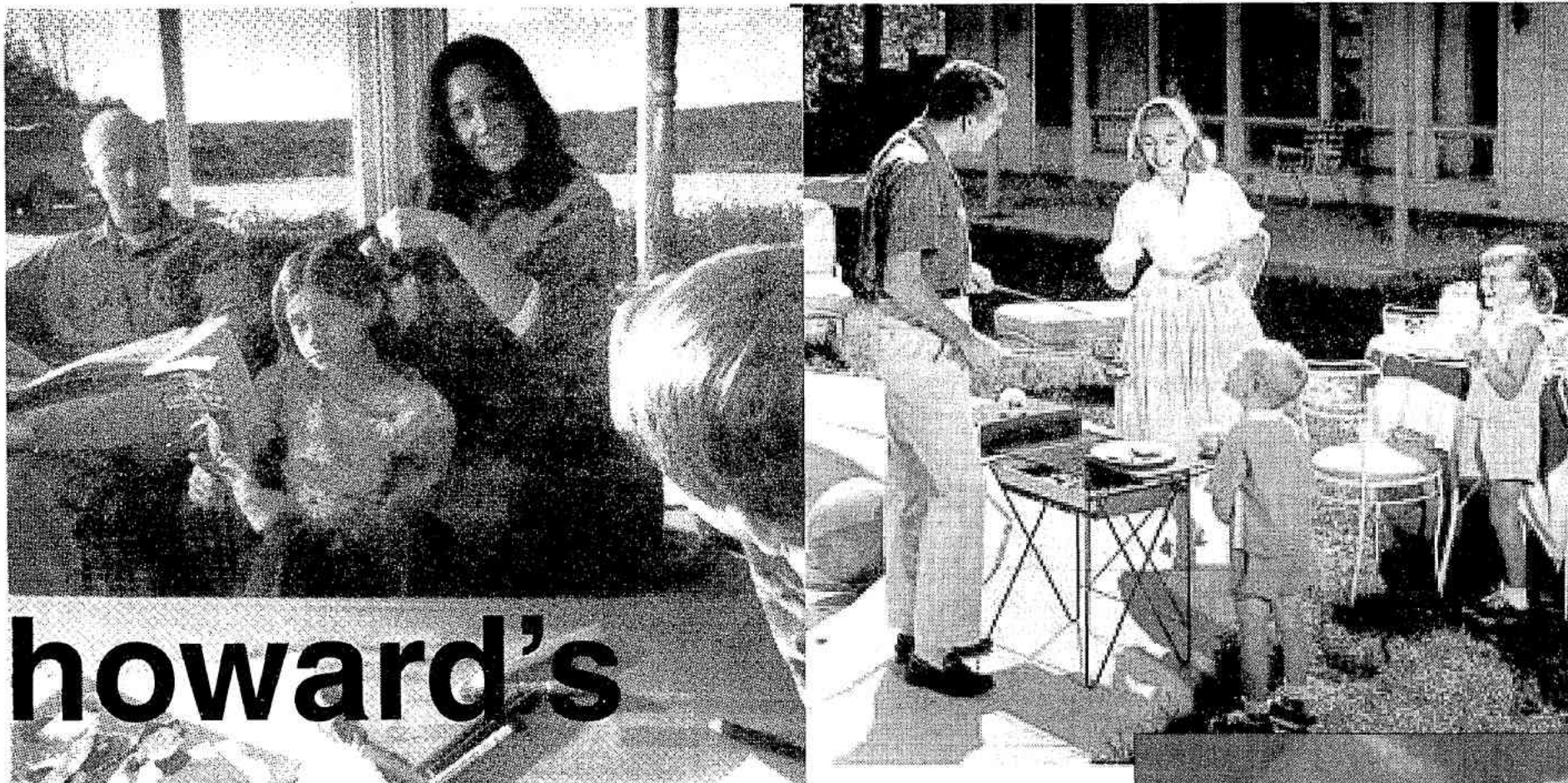
It's simple. Just purchase a cappuchino, tea or hot chocolate and receive a 'cash card'.

			free coffee					free scratchie
			free coffee					free scratchie



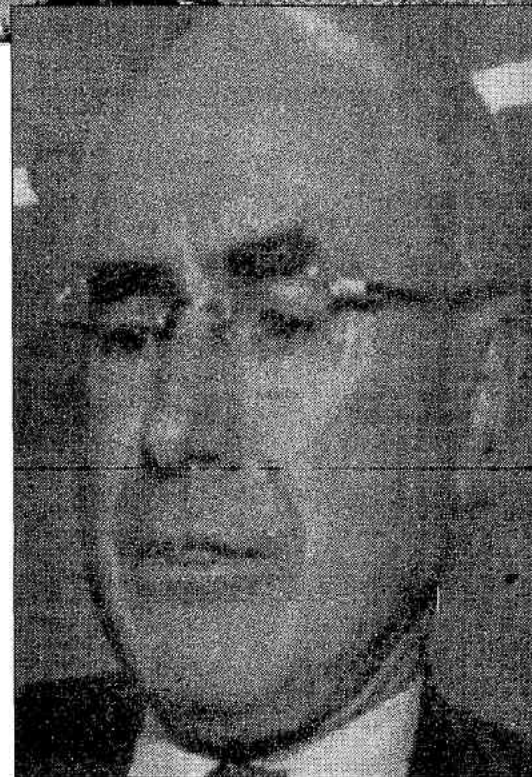
every fourth coffee is free and when you purchase your eighth cup, you receive an instant lottery scratchie ticket.

Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.



# howard's family values

we all rolled our eyes at howard's recent electioneering (ehem) drugs pamphlet. but does its emphasis on the family highlight an even more serious problem in australia?  
**miranda tetlow reports.**



The Coalition's recent drugs pamphlet release was laughable for so many reasons, with its photographs of fat lines of cocaine which would get anyone laughed out of a night club toilet,



(Above) The ever elicited 'Mary Jane.'

and quaint names for marijuana like "Mary Jane" that no self-respecting youth would ever use. On a serious note however, the emphasis placed by this recent drug campaign on the traditional family as a means to solve problems highlights several important issues regarding the family unit that continue to dominate Australian society. This includes the family's role in causing drug abuse, the fact that the greatest proportion of violence occurs within the family home, and the lack of rights and recognition accorded to gay and lesbian couples and their families.

**Parents to make sure that "only mugs use drugs"**

The drugs pamphlet was distributed to every household in Australia as part of the Federal Government's "Tough on Drugs" initiative. The policies underlying this brochure include Government aims to aid drug prevention by assisting parents and families to address drug issues with young people, but perhaps most importantly, to reiterate a family values stance

as a part of the public relations campaign that will continue up to the impending election. Howard stated in his opening message that, "I



(Above) Fat lines of cocaine ala Howard's drugs pamphlet

believe that the best drug prevention program in the world is a responsible parent sitting down with their children and talking to them about drugs." Obviously this approach hasn't even worked in Howard's own home, as his son was recently caught drink driving. While his statement infers more symbolic rhetoric than action, its insidious effect is to once more entrench the Australian family as the unit constituting society and therefore supposedly able to solve and address social issues. What this pamphlet, the television ads (which only seem to show affluent families anyway, with Mum holding a newly ironed private school uniform in one frame) and Howard's political policies have consistently ignored is that the family itself often lies at the heart of countless social problems in Australia, particularly issues like drug abuse and domestic violence. The five hundred million dollars that has been injected (pardon the pun) into this most recent campaign against drugs almost entirely fails to take the causal effect of the family into account. It is assumed that families are supportive and safe environments where good networks of communication exist. Community organisations have been quick to point out that such a situation is far from reality for many people. However, the Prime Minister has been largely reluctant to even acknowledge the devastating impact families can have on individuals, and that excessive use of illicit drugs often stems from a desire for some form of escape from familial abuse and neglect. Peta Donald from Triple J brought this up in her interview with Howard, and he simply brushed over her concerns, stating that he "did not have the naive view that you can only get drug abuse in so-called dysfunctional families."

#### Howard thinks Menzies "was ace"

It shouldn't surprise us that the Howard Government is again turning to the concept of traditional family values to solve Australia's social problems. He is continuing in a long standing tradition employed by most Australian governments, who have stressed the family as a pure and uncorrupted unit. In the 1950s



(Above) Cheesy 1950s advertising — Howard's inspiration for the drugs campaign pamphlet?

Menzies lent great support to "Good Neighbour" associations, constituted largely of



(Above) Traditional 1950s family values, apparently as applicable today.

families who would assist migrants to assimilate into Australian culture by their own pristine example. In 1951 the "Call to the Nation" was issued by the heads of the major Christian denominations, supported by chief justices of most states and was also supported by the Australian government under Menzies. This call was repeatedly given over the radio, and

enthusiasm. This is despite the fact that recent studies show that one in four children have seen a female relative physically attacked by a male relative, and that criminal law experts estimate that at least 68 % of female homicides and 85% of child homicides occur in the home. Despite claims of Government campaigns like "Domestic violence, it's everybody's business",

## Howard to Peta Donald at JJJ, "I [do] not have the naive view that you can only get drug abuse in so-called dysfunctional families."

reprinted in all major newspapers, urging Australian families to advance moral standards, and particularly to address the morality of their young people. Political dissent, the rise of communism, the increase in drug use, rise in divorce, and children born out of wedlock were all "problems" that the family was considered most able to address. The notion that the family was also the cause was rarely acknowledged, and as an institution it continues to attract the least state investigation and intervention.

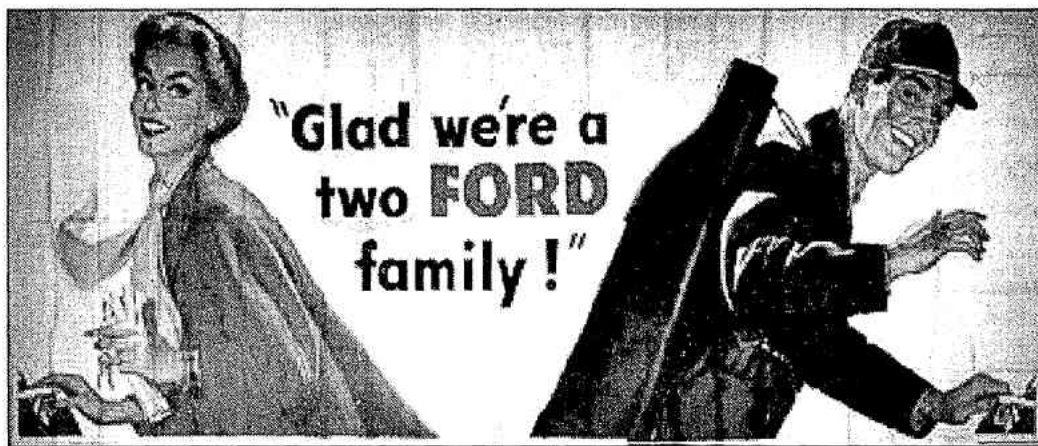
#### Domestic violence excused by right to privacy

While we would complain bitterly at constant invasions of our homes, and interference in our personal autonomy by the state, the elevation of the private sphere in this manner prompts consideration of several issues. Successive Australian governments have always professed a strong commitment to law and order, and reducing violent crime, but the family is invariably overlooked in this vehement

policies regarding this issues have been largely to pass responsibility to the workplace, in arrangements like "Business Against Domestic violence." Reforms have been made in legislation regarding domestic violence, such as allowing an entry warrant to be obtained by radio or phone where access is denied and requiring police to obtain a court order where they suspect domestic violence has occurred or is imminent. However, there has been a failure to simultaneously address the conceptions still held by the police that "a man's home is his castle", and to educate and reform the essentially male culture in the police force that often fosters identification with the perpetrator rather than the victim. Reforms have also been made ambiguous by public political affirmations of the independence and privacy accorded to the family situation.

#### Getting out of the family and getting help

Social security organisations have been unable



bureaucratic. The refusal to grant benefits to a person under the age of 18, without a signed statement by the parents that this person no longer can live at home, often traps people in situations that expose them to physical and/or sexual assault. This underlying government policy to keep people in the family is reflected in the meagre resources provided economically to facilities like public housing, legal aid and youth allowances. Refuges for women and children nationally have had grants slashed and are forced to turn people away, or limit the amount of time people can stay there. These immense obstacles prevent individuals from transcending abusive situations. By stressing family values and refusing to allocate more funds to combat the problems caused by families, the Howard Government ensures only the acceleration and continuance of these problems outlined.

***You are a family and you are not***

The current political conception of who actually is a family is also fundamentally and dangerously limited, despite the attempts in recent Government advertising to depict some diversity by including a multicultural household. This is particularly evident in the discrimination that continues to be demonstrated against gay and lesbian relationships and their families. Even prominent members of the Anglican Church in Victoria concur that the Family Law Act is completely outdated in its refusal to accord gay and lesbian couples the same status as married or defacto heterosexual relationships. In the recent IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) debates, the Federal

Government has sponsored efforts to amend anti discrimination laws so states can prevent single women and lesbians from accessing IVF programs through Medicare, despite the Victorian legislation being overruled in the Federal Court. While this does not mean a complete prohibition of lesbians using IVF per se, this commitment stands as a firm message from the government about what a family is, who should bring up children, and the continuance of prejudiced beliefs that children are better cared for in a heterosexual household. In this manner Howard's family values are

unable to take in the plural nature of Australian society, and as such, continue to promote discrimination and exclusion.

The stress placed on the family in the current drugs campaign, and the recent appointment of Archbishop Peter Hollingworth as the incoming Governor General, who may similarly be seen to embody such traditional values, all point to a cry back to the 1950s. While the portrayal of the family as a method to solve problems is more of a symbolic gesture than a practical one, this does not diminish the fact that political institutions in Australia have consistently ignored the damaging impact families can have. Instead of the investment of tax payer funds in what essentially amounts to a glitzy public relations exercise for the current Government, increased resources must be allocated to independent institutions and facilities that can be contacted by individuals. Howard must abandon his utopian and narrow view of the family, in order to deal with issues that often stem from the family, like drug abuse and domestic violence.



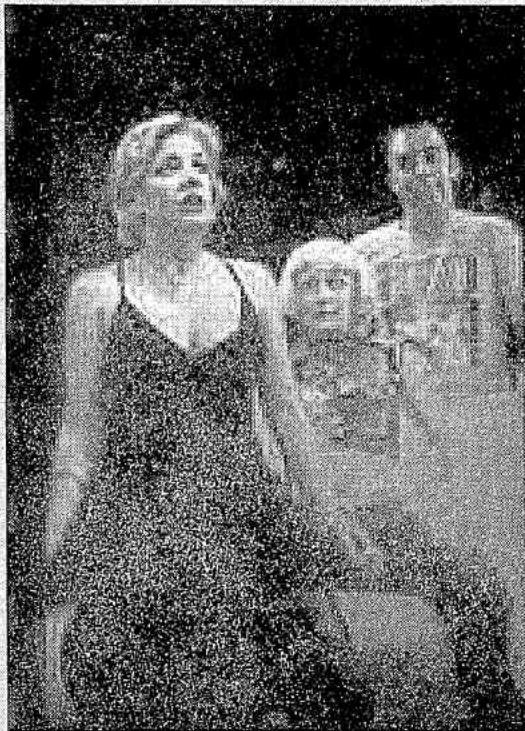
(Top and Bottom left) More 1950s family images. (Middle) A 2001 'happy family' from Howard's 'Tough on Drugs' campaign.

## the art of comedy

by miranda tetlow and amber beavis

If you take Federal Government funding and support for the performing arts as any indication, theatre is obsolete. Or is it? *Up For Grabs*, the new play by David Williamson, is an example of the new phase of theatre: satirical, social commentary that communicates the idiocy and mercenary nature of modern culture. In an age which is dominated by multimedia, theatre has still not lost its innate appeal. Even though we can walk into a cinema, switch on the TV or download an MP3 with ease, the theatre is still popular with audiences and performers alike. Felix Williamson (also David Williamson's son)—who plays Kel, one of the dot.com yuppies, in *Up For Grabs*—said that although he probably prefers working in film, "Theatre is beautiful. It keeps you honest...you get back to the roots, you're telling a story to the audience, and if you don't tell it right, they'll get bored".

*Up For Grabs* tells the story of a Brett Whitely painting and its admirers. Helen Dallimore is



Simone, the art dealer whose career depends on this \$2 million sale; Garry McDonald and Angela Punch McGregor are the wealthy, older couple who are substituting art for children; Felix Williamson and Kirstie Hutton are the dot.com yuppies with cars, clothes and drug habits to match the stereotypes and Tina Bursill is an academic-turned corporate consultant. Simon Burke plays Simone's husband Jerry who, as he says, is "the audience's voice", the embodiment of human decency as opposed to the wheelings and dealings of the other materialistic characters. The "make it by the time you're 30" is nothing new in popular culture mythology, but *Up for Grabs* seems to revitalise this theme and offers a new perspective on the idea of relationships versus money. Helen Dallimore finds this intense ambition an integral part of her

character. She describes Simone as being motivated by desperation, certain that this is her last chance in the cutthroat art industry. She refuses to be brushed aside, and wagers her home on clinching the deal, much to the horror of her husband, Jerry. Felix

Williamson told us of how he styled his character on the ostentatious habits of nouveau rich upstarts in Australia. He and Kirstie Hutton prepared for their roles through retail therapy, "On Oxford Street, we purchased clothes that were just so overstyled, like 250 dollar sneakers, the lot. We hung out at *Hemispheres*, one of the new chi-chi clubs in Sydney, and just watched all the people."

Dallimore noted that while David Williamson plays are often targeted at an educated middle class audience, this play had a wider appeal. The play seems to have hit a nerve, both in the art world, and more generally. One reviewer in Sydney claimed he could tell which members of the art world were present, according to where the gasps in the audience came from. Felix Williamson also told of an incident after one show, involving Angela Punch McGregor, whose character Felicity resembles according to Williamson, "Barbie after 50,000 valiums". She was approached by a wealthy "Double Bay type" in a gold dress, who obviously felt a strong affinity with Angela's character. "She came up to Angela, and said, "Hi, I'm Felicity, I was dying to meet you." Overall the strength of this play is its eclectic cast, all of whom show a commitment not only to large scale theatrical productions like *Up for Grabs*, but also to producing independent theatre. Both Williamson and Dallimore are also involved in their own respective independent companies, The Naked Theatre Company and The Hair of the Dog, and seek to foster the development of alternative theatre projects in a climate which is not geared to their promotion.

*Up for Grabs* starts in Canberra on May 30 at The Playhouse.

[http://fab\\_websites.woroni.com.au](http://fab_websites.woroni.com.au)

'matilda' fordinggrass-mavis

**Everybody was Kung fu fighting**

For the greatest fight scene ever to grace email forwards, go to <http://members.optus.com.au/swu/fight.swf>. One little stick figure guy takes on about 20 other stick figures to a soundtrack that just inspires adrenalin and suspense.

**Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon**

This website <http://www.cs.virginia.edu/oracle/> was quite impressive. I tested it with Rachel Griffiths to test for inclusion of people other than Americans and it said, Rachel Griffiths was in My Best Friends Wedding (1997) with Mike Bacarella. Mike Bacarella was in Stir of Echoes (1999) with Kevin Bacon. Impressive. Someone has way too much spare time on their hands.

**Sweet Procrastination**

Go to <http://www.urban75.com/Mag/bubble.html> and pop virtual bubble wrap for hours on end. The bubble reappear once you have popped them, so once you get there you may never leave. Perfect if you have an essay due.

**Want to see a hamster dance?**

At <http://www.hamsterdance2.com> you can watch various versions of hamsters bootscootin' to a Britney Spearsesque piece of pop. Quite entertaining, at least for 2 minutes or so.

**Cliche finder**

You can enter any word, and it will come out with a list of cliches containing it. I tested this and found it a little bit challenged. 'Midget' and 'pony' apparently aren't in any cliches known at <http://www.westegg.com/cliche/> but if you enter, say, 'time', you'll get a big fat list.

**1960s cereal boxes**

Maybe I'm easily impressed, but this website seemed to have quite the archive of 1960s popular culture and consumer advertising. Dennis the Menace 1963 Rice Krispies boxes, Hiawatha Sugar Smacks packets from the late 50s. Another good essay time waster.

**Website of the month-**  
<http://www.ycdtotv.com>

I remember watching *You can't do that on television*

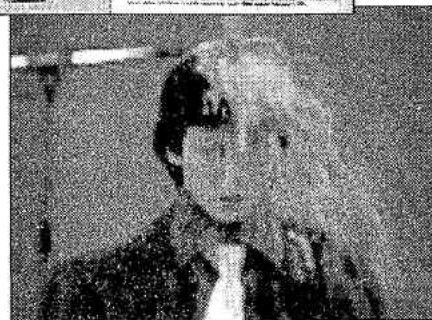
in my primary school days, and having the most enormous crush on Alisdair Gillis. I thought he was so dreamy. The way he offered those quips in the "Opposite Sketches", or in the lockers, the way he asked for one of Barth's Barfburgers, or played video games in Blip's arcade. When I recently rediscovered YCDTOTV I checked out the scanned in newspaper article on Alisdair that was in the archives and found that Alisdair was 14 and 5ft 1 at

the time of my crush. You win some, you lose some. But this site is great. Reminiscence about Alannis Morrisette's early days of glory as she got slimed with Moose for saying "I don't know", or "watered" when she said water. Nothing like slapstick to appeal to the

punters. I'm still waiting for the ABC to offer reruns of this television masterpiece alongside *The Goodies*, *Cities of Gold* and *Degrassi*.



(Left top) 1960s cereal boxes, so special. (Left bottom) Slimed by the stupidity of saying I don't know. (Above) All the gang at YCDTOTV.



**Free Stuff for you...or a couple of you anyway**

Woroni has a strong commitment to putting the 'K' back into kulcha. And we think we should share that commitment with you. On that note Woroni has a double pass to David Williamson's new play, *Up for Grabs* and also a double movie pass to give away. all you have to do is send your funniest and most obscure web addresses/links to [woroni\\_kulcha@hotmail.com](mailto:woroni_kulcha@hotmail.com) and the two best entries will get the passes.

# screening canberra

robie porter, '60s australian hit singer and producer, has high hopes for his community station, triple c, to be produced by students and community organisations. coming soon to a tv near you, says alexi metherell.

Campus news and student production are two possible features of a new Canberra community TV station. Called Triple C, the new station is scheduled to start in August. Although not proposed to be entirely a community-access channel, it will be open to anyone who would like to audition as a reporter or presenter, and is likely to have strong involvement from performing arts, communications and other students.

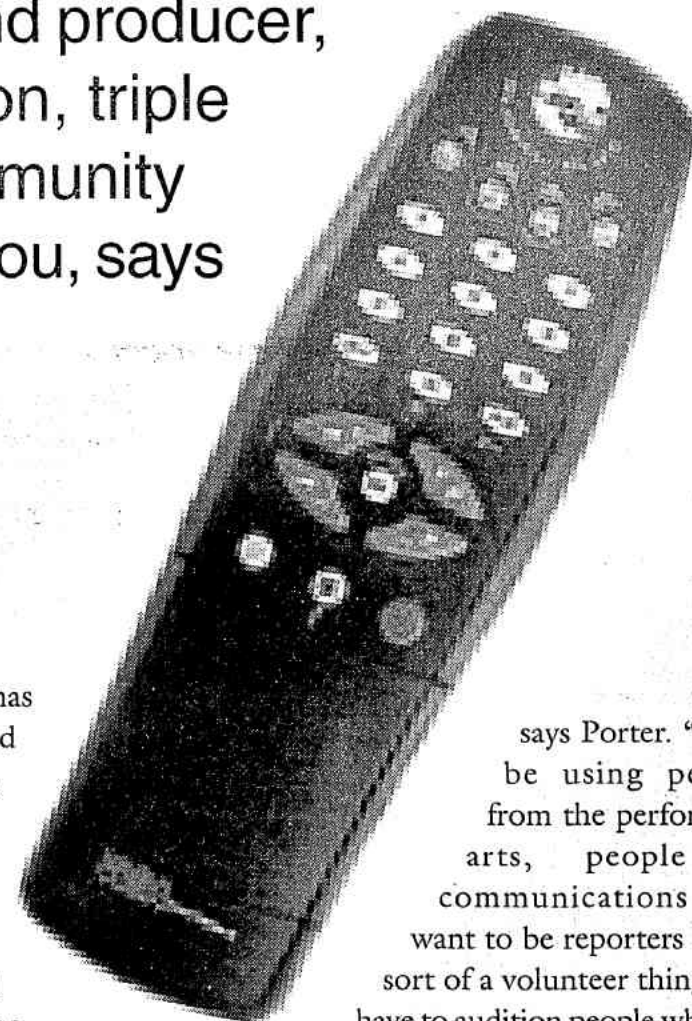
It's a risky enterprise, community media. Generally run by volunteers and on a tight budget, it's an enterprise that can lead to all sorts of problems — from clumsy amateurism, to dead air on radio to defamation cases costing thousands in legal expenses. And community television, which requires considerable resources, takes the cake for the riskiest form of community media.

Closure is an ever-present risk. In 1999, Melbourne community television station Channel 31 narrowly avoided having to shut down after receiving \$100,000 in public funds, donations which showed how much the community valued their independent broadcaster. Raising revenue commercially is difficult for community stations — Channel 31 is licensed to broadcast a maximum of four minutes of advertising an hour, whereas free-to-air stations are allowed to run over fifteen minutes of ads an hour.

So it takes commitment, passion and cash to start

a community TV station. Canberra has five community radio stations, and dozens of community publications, but who'd be ambitious enough to venture into community TV here? Robie (that's pronounced Robbie) Porter — alias "Rob E. G.," a singing star from the '60s with several hit songs, and a Logie as Recording Artist of the Year in '63 — is the person who has come up with the Triple C idea. A one-time producer for the likes of Marcia Hines, Air Supply, Daddy Cool (think Eagle Rock) and Tommy Emmanuel, Porter, more relevantly to the new station, has also run a TV production company in the US, Binder Porter Productions. Now, he runs Prime Star, a pay-TV operator, like Foxtel, which will start operating nationally via satellite next year. Depending on how quickly households subscribe to Prime Star through TransACT, the ACT's new communications network, it aims to start broadcasting in August. Subscription allows access to twelve channels, one of which will be Triple C and will be seen only in Canberra.

Almost every other state has a "sixth channel" which the Federal Government has allocated for community broadcasters, and although Triple C won't strictly be a community-access channel, its focus will be the Canberra community. "We'll try people out who have never done it before,"



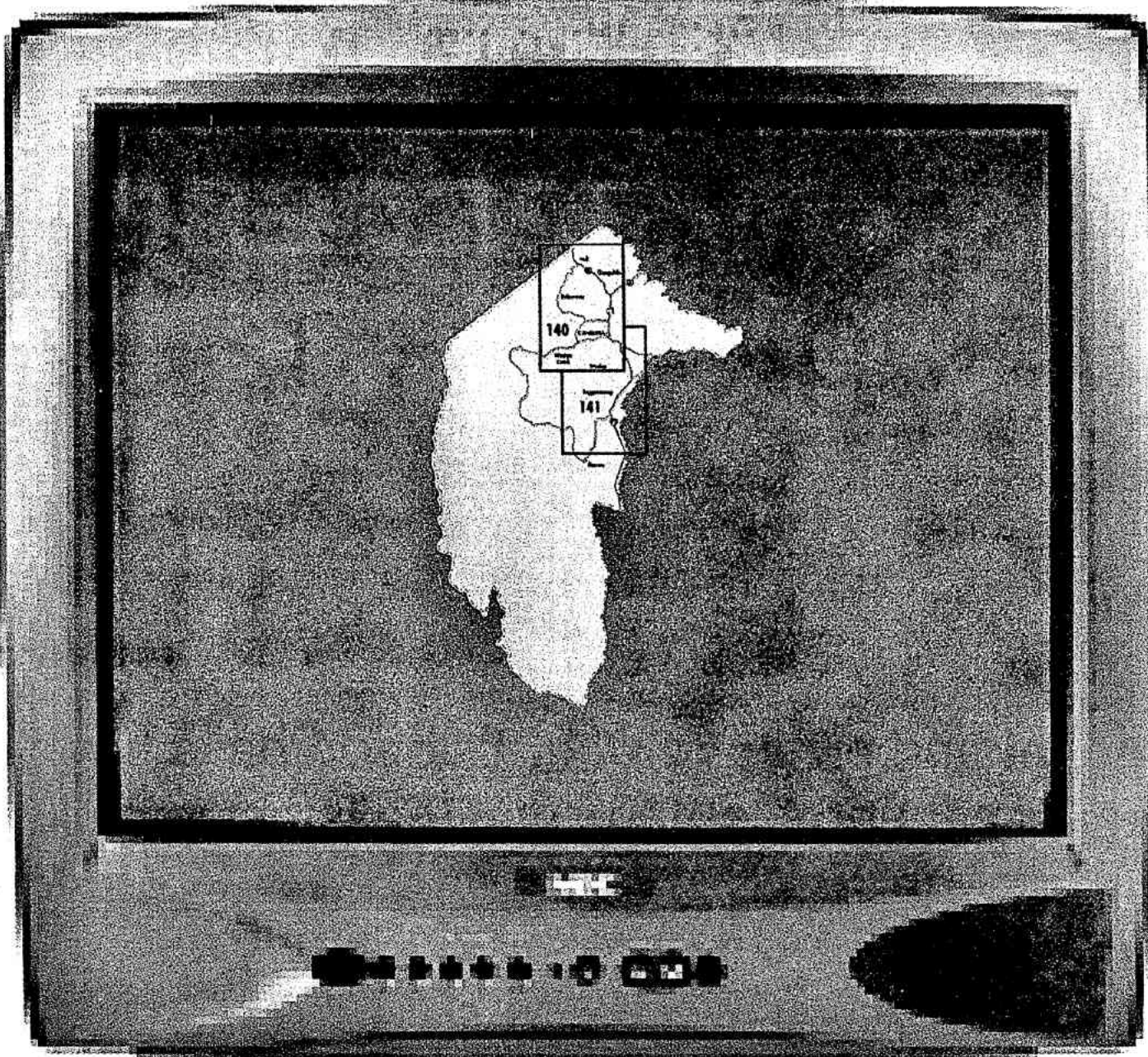
says Porter. "We'll be using people from the performing arts, people in communications who want to be reporters ... it's sort of a volunteer thing. We have to audition people who can stand up and talk in front of a camera when there is chaos around

them."

Porter says the difference between a professional channel and Triple C, is that a lot of the people who will work on the programs both in front of and behind the camera will be, students, just graduated or final-year students, and those who are interested enough to put in spare time — "it's on-the-job training, basically."

Production will be mainly coordinated by students, under Porter's direction. Michael Sergi, a Communications lecturer at UC says that they are currently discussing the creation of two pilot programs — a music show and community information program, which will be evaluated before a final format is created.

What about the ANU's involvement? We may not have a journalism school, but Robie would like to see reports about campus news broadcast. "There must be things going on in the university that are interesting. We might



have a general round-up of what's going on around campus."

Different organisations — sporting, children's and arts-related are also looking at producing programs. Porter plans coverage of local sporting teams including high school, college and clubs, reporting results and showing highlights of games.

In the early stages of operation, Triple C will not be broadcast 24-hours a day, as it would be impossible with just volunteer help.

Programming will be split into morning and afternoon blocks. There will be a breakfast program, including an

exercise program, using local volunteer instructors, and a craft show (upholstery, cooking, gardening) which will total about five hours. The three-hour evening block will consist of news and entertainments interview shows. Porter says there will also be a weekly Countdown-style music show with live bands.

The very minimum budget the station could run on would be about \$1 million a year, Robie says. Although the Government hasn't agreed to give any money yet, "they're enthusiastic

about it." Triple C is also looking for corporate sponsorship. Programs will be sponsored by companies, in the style of "this program proudly brought to you by [insert good corporate citizen]."

In order to access the TV station, you have to be a TransACT customer, subscribing to Prime Star. Porter says it will cost an initial \$19.95 approximately for access to telephony, Internet, pay-TV and the interactive services that will be put on

some programs, and then about \$29.95 a month.

Porter doesn't really view the station as an alternative to mainstream media. "I think we're really an adjunct to everything. We're not in competition with anybody, we're kind of unique unto ourselves. Quite often, even with pay-TV you can sit there and flick through 40 channels and still find nothing to watch, you might instead go to a

channel which provides information about what's going on around town. Usually every channel covers the same news event, we'll cover the secondary issues — there will be hard news that is relevant to the community."

He is optimistic about the prospects of success for Triple C, compared with other community stations, which he says "are ratty, you wouldn't want to watch them. The reason why they don't succeed, is because they're not television producers. We're television producers, creators

of television content, so it's our business.

"We're doing this as a community project for the community, so we're donating our services to that cause, but we're approaching it as if it's a real TV

station, rather than a community station. It'll be sort of somewhere in between — you can't always predict what each show is going to do, but the concept is it has to be entertaining and informative."

If households subscribe to Prime Star, he says, there is a good chance that Triple C will succeed. But it will depend on how involved the community is. "I don't think that's a problem because there seems to be a great deal of excitement about it."

**"I think Triple C is really an adjunct to everything. We're not in competition with anybody, we're kind of unique unto ourselves."**

# fun things to do in canberra #11: mullet spotting



**fi fi the fe-mullet** and **ernest mullet-hobson** have been on the prowl around canberra to bring you the latest in mullet fashion and music. be tantalised...

Thanks to the abundance of glossy weekend magazines and colourful "youth" sections of newspapers, we've noticed a bounty of mullet literature floating around in popular culture. However, we have been deeply disturbed at the low level of mullet discourse that has taken place. Folks, we need to take a good look at ourselves. Perhaps its time to ask if we secretly covet a long and curly mullet but are too scared to take the coiffure plunge. Why does such discrimination against the mullet continue,

particularly in light of the resurgence of other cuts, like the 90s under cut? Mmm, undercuts. And imagine how someone with a mullet would have filled out the census form? At the very least they would have received a lot of stares, and perhaps not for the reasons you might first assume. While perusing this page please take the time to appreciate the glossy shine that emanates from a person wearing a mullet with pride. Consider the careful teasing of the upper tendrils, the exact application of mousse, gel and hairspray; the artistic tools that have created a masterpiece.

out for more mullet gems).

#### Forbidden Mullet of Love

Most of you probably thought a Hawaiian shirt and hat made out of a VB Carton was enough to score the love of your life? Well, you were wrong. The mullet is the new tool for picking up without the use of prescription drugs and intoxication. The case in hand is Greg\* from Canberra. This attractive young man was spotted while we were out "mullet-touchin".



(Above) Rod Stewart has nothing on these guys. Rrrrr.

#### Some tips: how to ask for a mullet

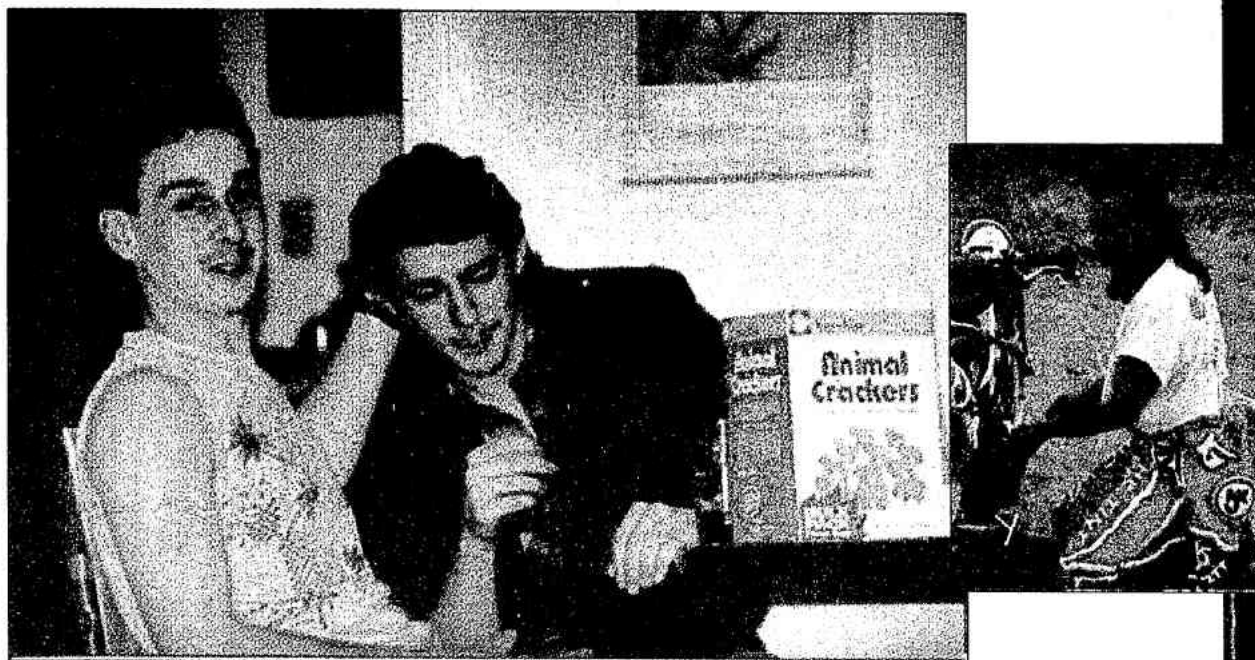
- "Hairdresser could you please give me a:
- 7 (the shape of the number)
  - 10-90 (changes in numbers proportion to the amount of hair on top and in the back)
  - Ape drape
  - Beaver paddle
  - Bi-level
  - Business in the front, party in the back (whorehouse cut)
  - Kentucky waterfall (rocky at the top with long flowing streams)
  - Mudflap
  - Neckwarmer
  - SFLB(svelbie)=Short Front, Long Back
  - STLb(stilbie)=Short Top, Long Back
  - Schlong (short+long)

(Thanks to [www.mulletsgalore.com](http://www.mulletsgalore.com)- check it



(Above) Some people want a mullet so much they're prepared to draw one on to a photo. Fraudulent wannabes.





(Above) Whether relaxing at home, or tinkering with the bike, its easy to see a certain mullet charm.

After a hot pursuit through inner-city Canberra he was tracked down to King O'Malley's (henceforth known as King O'Mullet's) where he was spotted once again. There he was talking to four women all of whom were focussing their



attention on him. He was not at all surprised at this, and not content just to be the centre of attention, Greg left for greener pastures. Being rejected by a mullet

made us wonder about the amazing pulling power that the mullet has, when its powers are used for good and not evil. The mullet has always been known for its capacity to breed many offspring, but the mating rituals have not been fully analysed, and remain to be commercialised. However, it is not to be forgotten that Fabio has a mullet, and he has long been regarded as the most beautiful man in the Cosmos. Andre Agassi also caught the eye of Brooke Shields with his "Permomullet". And of course, one of the most well known lovers of biblical times, Sampson, was so proud of his mullet that when it was cut off he lost all of his power, in life and in love. No one knows where the power of the mullet comes from, but it has an attraction that no one seems able to resist. So now you know why you haven't been getting any loving. If you had a mullet you would be out there beating them away with your mullet comb.

(\* a fake name used to protect "Tom")



(Left) The flag giveth away the mullet.

### How to be a rockstar

David Bowie had one, Rod Stewart had one, and Darren Middleton from Powderfinger has been accused of having one. Until late 2000, Kenny G wore it with pride, along with Tina Turner, Billy Ray Cyrus and Bonnie Tyler. And now that Kenny G has abandoned his, the theory is that as he is so far behind the times anyway it must be back in fashion. This marks late 2000 as the rebirth of the mullet and the seeds of change have been spotted in Canberra's mullet den, King O'Malley's, with the Friday night cover band, the Eleventh Hour. Both the Bass Guitarist and the Drummer for this band have fully fledged mullets, and if patterns in the music industry are anything to go by, by the time they are playing original songs, mainstream rockers, even boy bands will have adopted the mullet in the back lash against shaved heads and Hugh Grant fops. My tip is that if you are still slaving away in your garage with a drum machine and a keyboard, the key to success may not be actual talent, but rather the edgy look that only a mullet can provide. If Rod Stewart can do it, so can you.



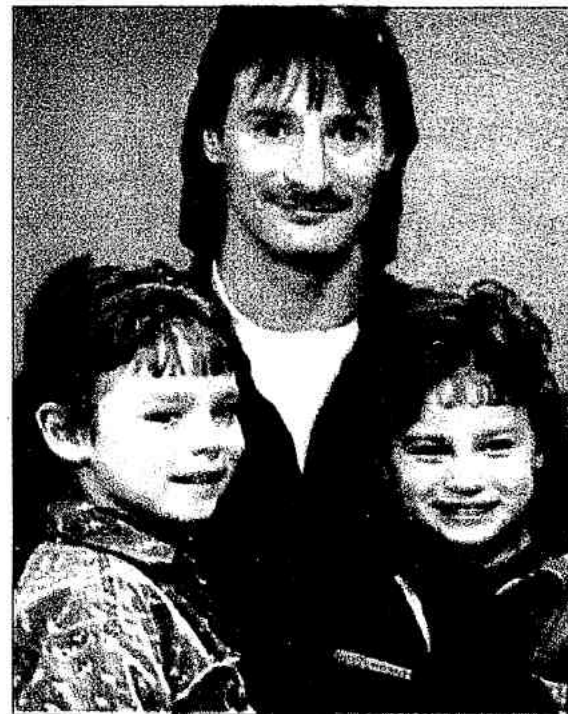
(Above) What can we say, its a nice day for a mullet wedding.



(Above) Some rockin' mullet style.



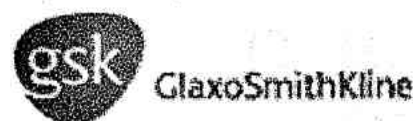
(Above) The 'show biz' mullet coiffure



(Above) Score twenty extra points for every child mullet



# greedy pharmas

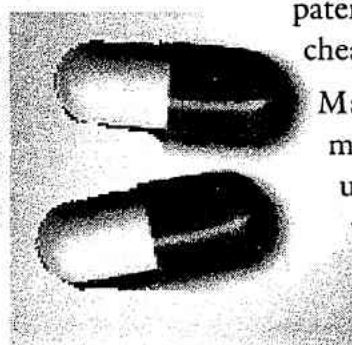


pharmaceutical companies are reluctant to share patents, making medicines unaffordable to the millions suffering from aids and other life-threatening diseases which ravage africa, writes **charlie ward**.



On Saturday April 21 heavyweight boxing history was made in Johannesburg. Against 20-1 odds, heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis suffered a humiliating defeat to American underdog Hasim Rahman. Lewis wanted the fight held in the South African city, so he could relive Muhammad Ali's famous 1978 "Rumble in the Jungle" win against George Foreman. But he went home with his tail between his legs.

Two days earlier, and fifty kilometres further north of Johannesburg, a controversial, three-year legal battle in the Pretoria High Court had an equally surprising outcome. On April 19, a coalition of 39 pharmaceutical companies abandoned their losing battle against South Africa over legislation that would allow the government to bypass restrictive drug patents in its quest for cheaper medicine.



Many essential medicines are unaffordable to those who need

them most. This problem is not limited to anti-AIDS drugs. According to Oxfam International, a single course of Septrin, an antibiotic used to treat chest infection, costs around \$US7. This price is equivalent to Tanzania's annual per capita public health spending on medicines. In Zambia, treating a single case of pneumonia, a virus that kills more people than AIDS, would cost between US\$8 and US\$10. For more than 60% of the Zambian population, this represents over half their monthly income. In South Africa, a 'three-drug anti-AIDS cocktail' costs \$US10,000 per person annually. Therefore treating one sixth of the 4.5 million South African AIDS sufferers would cost the government US\$7.5 billion. Oxfam International estimates this figure to be 27 times the government's entire budget for medicines.

Because essential medicines are unaffordable, people are dying. In South Africa, mother to child transmission of AIDS, also known as Vertical Transmission, infects 60,000 children annually. Most of these children die before their

fifth birthday.

AZT is one of many anti-retroviral drugs used to combat HIV/AIDS. Studies show AZT could prevent 50% of Vertical Transmissions yet the drug is simply not affordable. The lack of drug availability also effects the poor in indirect ways. Research in Uganda for example found that three quarters of poor urban households reduced their spending on meals in the event of sickness episodes. Likewise research conducted by Médecins Sans Frontières in Vietnam 'found poor households in regional areas selling buffalo to meet health costs. Such sales can have grave implications for future livelihoods and earnings capacity.'

Most of the drugs desperately needed by developing countries, have been patented by western pharmaceutical companies. Although these companies (the Big Pharmas) have on several occasions offered developing countries heavily discounted drugs, they still defend their high drug prices. The reasoning behind this is



(Above) A patient's lesions are attended to at a Zimbabwe hospice, where all the caregivers themselves are HIV positive. Photo by James Nachtwey-Magnum.

a topical issue. On one hand, the Big Pharmas argue that high profits on one patented drug are necessary to subsidise research and development on another. Whilst the cost of manufacturing drugs is relatively small, the associated research and

research and development argument is weak. Industry researchers have admitted that "a third of all life-saving drugs developed in the United States received federal aid to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars." Drug campaigners also like to point out that before

Egypt, Thailand and Brazil are selling these 'Home Brand' medicines for as little as one fiftieth of the patented drug's prices. This is drastically improving the poor's access to drugs. Brazil, who can't afford patented anti-AIDS drugs, have distributed generic equivalents

freely to AIDS patients. Subsequently the number of AIDS related deaths in Brazil dropped by 50%. The benefits of generic drugs are as clear now



## In South Africa mother to child transmission of AIDS, also known as Vertical Transmission, infects 60,000 children annually. Most of these children die before their fifth birthday.

development costs are extremely high. Especially when you consider not all research and development produces a marketable product. Without the monopoly a patent provides, competitors could rip-off their inventions and the Big Pharmas would never recoup their investment.

On the other hand, campaigners for cheap drugs, like John le Carré, author of *The Constant Gardener*, say Big Pharmas are abusing patents for the sake of profits. Carré believes the

the WTO was formed in 1995, very few developing countries had intellectual property laws. Generic drug companies thrived and still the Big Pharmas turned a tidy profit.

Generics are cheap, patent-free imitations of patented drugs. As one article in the Guardian explains, "As soon as a new drug hits the market, scientists break down its molecular structure, helped in their task by the Internet, where pharmaceutical formulas are freely available." Generic drug manufacturers in India,

as they were to South Africa four years ago.

In 1997 Nelson Mandela signed legislation that would address some of the problems behind South Africa's AIDS crisis. The need for the legislation was, and still is, overwhelming. 19.9% of South African adults are infected with the HIV virus. One quarter of all women between the ages of 20 and 29 are HIV positive. Of the 1700 daily infections in South Africa, 200 of the infected are babies.



(above) a daughter holds her mother, 32, a widow, whose 34 year old husband died of AIDS.

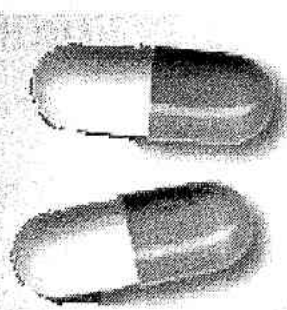
The 1997 Medicines Act aimed to improve access to essential medicines by exploiting the benefits of parallel importing and compulsory licensing (see side bar). But according to the Big Pharmas the act contravenes international patent law.

Each of the 140 members of the World Trade Organisation is required to provide patent protection to inventors. All of the member countries must introduce, or amend, patent laws which comply with the, now infamous, WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (Trips). The Trips Agreement came into force on 1 January 1995 but there is a grace period for developing countries, until 2006. South Africa became Trips compliant in 1997 when it amended its 1978 Patent Act. The Trips Agreement states that a patent "provides the patent owner with the legal means to prevent others from making, using, or selling the new invention for a limited period of time, subject to a number of exceptions". The 'limited period of time' is currently 20 years.

According to the Big Pharmas, Mandela's Medicines Act violates the Trips Agreement through its parallel importing and compulsory licensing provisions. These accusations lead to the legal battle in Pretoria, throughout which the Medicine Act was unable to come into effect. Oxfam International believes the Big

Pharma's court case in Pretoria was nothing short of an attempt to interpret the Trips Agreement in their own interests. "TRIPS is neutral on parallel imports, and explicitly permits compulsory licenses, two facts that even the US government and the European Commission have come to accept." They describe the Big Pharma's retreat as a "victory for the people of South Africa".

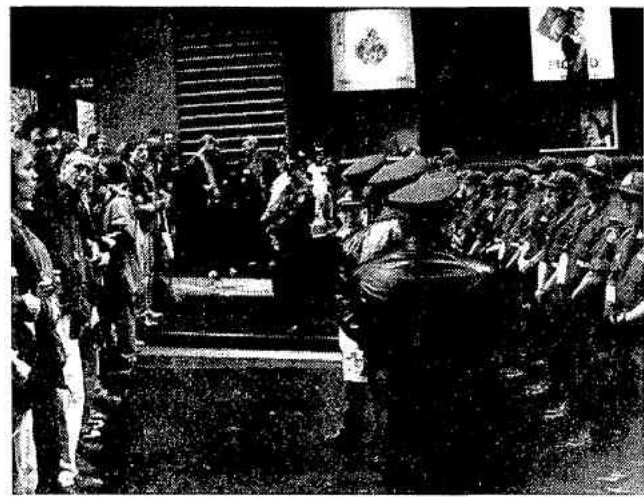
But is it really? Weaknesses of the Trips Agreement, such as the unnecessarily long 20 year life of a patent, have certainly come to light.



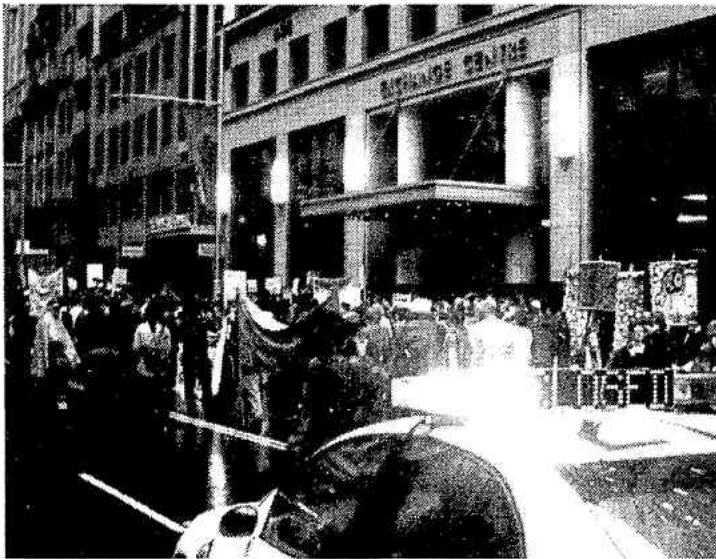
have the greed of the Big Pharma's and their readiness to ally developing countries. But, now that South Africa is free to import home brand medicine, we are likely to see a significant reduction in the suffering caused by AIDS and other deadly viruses? The South African

Health Minister's press conference, which followed the court case's conclusion, doesn't inspire confidence. Rather than announcing immediate plans to make the anti-AIDS drugs widely available, she spoke of the lack of infrastructure needed to administer the anti-AIDS drugs en masse. Somehow it seems the only recent victory in South Africa was Hasim Rahman's, the new heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

**parallel imports and compulsory licensing** Parallel importing describes the importation of cheaper patented products from a country with weaker patent laws without the patent holder's permission. It does not include the importation of generic drugs. Parallel importing would, however, allow the South African government to source the lowest price of patented products on the global market. Parallel importing is not permitted under South Africa's amended Patent Act. Therefore, without this provision in the Medicines Act, South Africa has no choice but to accept medicine prices determined for the South African market by the patent holders. Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce the patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner. According to the Economist, "That means that if a government deems a drug too costly, it can license a local generic manufacturer to make it more cheaply or buy a generic version from another country." Although South Africa's Trips compliant Patent Act does address compulsory licensing, the Medicines Act aims to give the Health Minister further powers in this regard.



## mehdi chebil goes to m1



Institute of the Arts Photography student, Mehdi Chebil, photographed the M1 protest in Sydney. Protesters, following the May Day tradition of workers' demonstrations, blockaded the Stock Exchange. But it was more of a media spectacle than a strategic success. Mehdi speaks to *Woroni*.

"The protest started before 7am, and the heavy rain had already begun. The weather conditions were so bad that some protesters couldn't make it. I was using 125 ISO film, and I had to push it to 400 due to the dark conditions.

The blockade was not very effective until at least 9:30, because traders were able to enter through a side entrance.

But there was a big media presence, with TV, photographers and journalists. There were so many media, that, with their big video cameras, they effectively created a second line of the blockade.

It was very effective protest for the media, but it didn't really disturb the traders, because by 9:30, most of them were inside the Stock Exchange."



## bob dylan, *the best of bob dylan volumes 1 & 2*

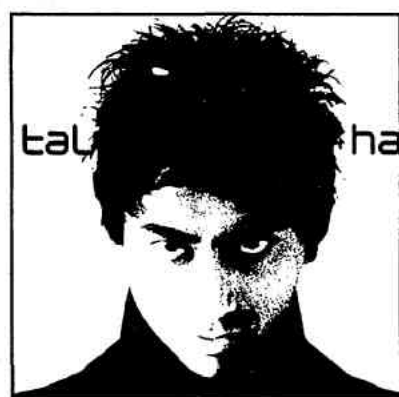
alex metherell

Of the many desirable jobs at *Woroni*, perhaps the most coveted is Reviewing CDs. No one complains about writing 250 words on a recently released album by a hot new artist which then joins your CD collection or, if it's trash, is destined for the shelves of *Revolution CDs*. So it was with a sort-of grateful disappointment that I was handed Bob Dylan to review. Am I showing my age if I say that the closest acquaintance until now I've had with Bob Dylan's music is the *Forrest Gump* soundtrack?

Those who are more familiar with his music will know that Dylan's style is a distinctive and original blend of rock, folk and blues. I was surprised to find myself drawn in by Dylan's raw voice, poetic lyrics, and the lilt of the

harmonica and acoustic guitar. This collection covers his lamenting ballads — the classic 'Mr. Tambourine Man' — to more upbeat tracks such as 'Subterranean Homesick Blues', all sung with a southern accent of wisdom and perception. The original 'Knockin' On Heaven's Door' puts the Guns and Roses' cover to shame.

Dylan's music has retained the carefree feeling of the era in which it was written, which is what I find most appealing. There is no doubt that Bob Dylan is a master songwriter and artist and this double CD spanning the period 1963 - 99 is evidence of that. This CD definitely won't be sold to *Revolution CD*, but kept for days when I'm feeling wistful and nostalgic.



## talvin singh, *ha*

jocasta lovesit

Ethnic techno is usually appalling, regardless of how many times the word 'fusion' is used; so I suppose this album deserves praise for being patchy and not dreadful. Pseudo-eclectic music tends to be horribly derivative: you've heard the techno before (of course), but the beautiful world-music to which it has been 'fused' sounds suspiciously like Enrico Morricone. I still can't forget that awful *Delirium* dance track with imams and Gregorian chant, called something like *Koran II*. Someone played it at a party in Yass, and a girl turned to me and said, "It's so spiritual". Her peasant family were less impressed.

Singh combines traditional Indian and trance. His

synth. and sitars mix has varied results. There are some very long tracks with pretensions at ambience, but nothing too "spiritual". Some tracks are more upbeat, but there is nothing quite danceable. Singh's traditional samples are interesting in and of themselves. There are some gauche interjections; for instance, there is an interminable monologue from a strange old man which seems to have no purpose. *Ha* is background music for lazy mornings. It is not overwhelmingly exciting.

In case you were wondering: We all know that Hip-Hop and R'n'B people thank God and usually give him glowing testimonials. Apparently, the Sitar Synth. set thank their gurus.



## manic street preachers, *know your enemy*

adam gould

What does one of Britain's biggest alterna-rock bands do after recording five successful albums and leading an existence that not even a daytime soap scriptwriter could imagine? It seems they tour Cuba, hang out with Fidel Castro and release one of their best albums to date to an unexpected public.

To milk a cliché, the Manics have returned to their roots with *know your enemy*. Gone is the clean tightly mixed pop rock of "This is my truth, tell me yours", in its place we have less rehearsed, almost spontaneous sounding, loosely mixed pop rock. Thankfully this does not turn out to be a bad thing.

What it does make for is a very indie sounding edge to the same music that the Manics have been pumping

out for a decade.

The usual Manic street preachers disgruntled activist streak runs through the album, blatantly evident in tracks such as 'Masses Against the Classes' and 'Freedom of Speech Won't Feed my Children'.

Pretty much every other track on the album has a message to it, albeit with a little more subtlety.

My current favourite tracks on the album are the single 'So Why So Sad', 'Intravenous Agnostic' and 'The Convalescent'. There are no clear stand-out tracks on the album. *Know Your Enemy* is a rare album that can be listened to in its entirety or track by track without losing any of its edge.



## dave matthews band, *everyday*

maciej wasilewicz

"The *Dave Matthews Band* has scored another winning Album with 'Everyday'. This album has explored new ground as well as maintaining Matthews' old work. The band still works as one and the lyrics maintain their meaning but this time the whole work is a lot more relaxed.

Some of the tracks contain a genuine Jamaican sound. The lead track, 'I Did It', starts the album with energy and style. The strongest tracks on the album were 'Space Between' and 'Pick me up'. 'Space Between' has a slower and deeper feel to the rest of the album. If anyone has ever been in a relationship where there's a difference that you can't define then this song really hits the right cords.

'Pick Me Up' is more vocal and 'Jamaican' in feel and reminds you of a feeling that you get when you need someone to be there for you.

Overall the album maintains quality easy listening with a genuine meaning which means you can listen to the album for a while without tiring of it. It gives you a relaxation as well as reminding you of times that you needed something that can only be explained in music. I recommend this album to any old Dave Matthews Band fans as well as anyone looking for a relaxed comfortable musical artwork. This album is highly recommended.

## so you wanna be a supermodel?

Win preview tickets to *Head Over Heels* a film about life, love and lip-gloss in this tale surrounding a groups of models who share an apartment.

To win a double pass to the Canberra premiere of *Head Over Heels* (starring Sarah O'Hare, Shalom Harlow, Monica Potter and Freddie Prinze Jr) just drop by the *Woroni* office and show us your best supermodel catwalk strut. It's easy!



## granta issue 72, *overreachers*

penny jones

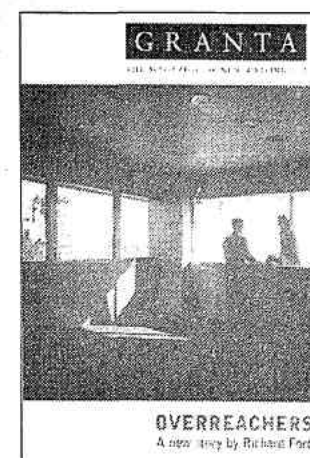
Magazines are the literary equivalent of a buffet lunch. For \$24.95, you can try a range of dishes, and maybe discover an obscure Polish delicacy. On the other hand, you will probably leave several dishes half-chewed on the side of your plate.

*Granta* produces one of today's most interesting magazines, with new fiction, non-fiction and photography from around the world.

Issue 72, *Overreachers*, contains work of uneven quality. Teun Voeten's photo essay, 'Sierra Leone', sees little in this country beyond amputees and dictators. Ved Mehta's autobiographical 'Kiltykins' whines interminably through his breakup with his girlfriend. Most of the other contributions are unmemorable. However, two of them are worth a visit to the bookshop. In English for the first time, Polish novelist Olga Tokarczk's

'The Hotel Capital' tells the biography of a hotel's second floor from the point of view of the cleaner. She discovers the lives of the inhabitants in the crushed sheets and spilt cosmetics, and she tries to communicate back through the language of things. But she recoils at any human presence, the hotel guests "shockingly alive".

Brilliantly adventurous is 'When I Was Lost', by James Hamilton-Paterson. Can we still get lost in "these post-explorer days", now that mobile phones and digital tracking systems bind us to the rest of the world? Or is 'lostness' more about emotional than physical detachment? Hamilton-Paterson unpretentiously wonders at these questions as he travels 5 kilometres below the sea in a Russian manned submersible glimpsing the previously unseen sea bed.



## david eggers, *a heartbreaking work of staggering genius*

james macklin-smith

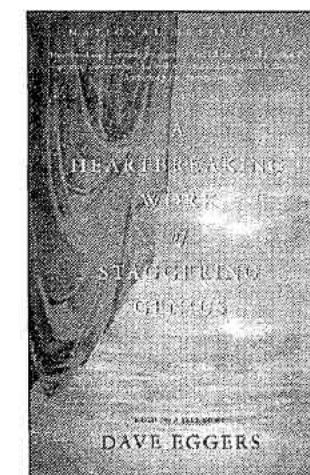
I don't know if it'll be the same for you, but Dave Eggers possesses the ability to make me feel as if he's talking directly to me, through the pages of this novel. And he's not shy about doing it either. He uses this remarkable ability to make me feel his touching story, care about the characters, and oh yeah, to call me a mother-fucker repeatedly.

It seems I'm not the only one who is impressed by this Eggers guy; he has cred out coming out the wazoo. Zadie Smith drops his name in interviews, Haruki Murakami is apparently one of his drinking buddies, Phillip Glass has composed music for the journal that Eggers edits (McSweeney's), and David Foster Wallace sings his praises, too.

*Heartbreaking Work* is a essentially a semi-fictionalised account

of the last 7 or 8 years in Eggers' life, recounting what it was like for him to lose both of his parents, dealing with the grief and the logistics of being left to raise a younger brother, and all this while still having dreams of changing the world. For the new paperback release of his modestly titled debut, he's added 50 new pages of updates on what certain people are doing now, etc.

It's certainly not the perfect novel; there's a short bit in the middle that really gave me the shits, and Eggers can be a tad heavy-handed with his use of meta-narrative devices, but *Heartbreaking Work* is certainly a touching and well told story.



## julian barnes, *love etc*

mark thomson

Julian Barnes' latest novel is a sequel to *Talking It Over*. *Love, etc* is set ten years after Gillian divorced Stuart to marry Oliver. Stuart returns from America and the fireworks begin.

In both novels the lead characters give monologue accounts of a love triangle. This technique is remarkably effective (without nouveau roman preciousness). It permits precise characterisation. More importantly, the monologues preserve the complexity and uncertainty of love intrigues: multiple flawed and contradictory depositions are more believable than a single narrative account.

*Love, etc* is bleaker than the novel it follows; depression, failure and violence surface and stay put. Barnes is, as usual, a perceptive critic of self love and deception, neither

detached enough to be urbane, nor blind enough to be a sentimentalist. To his credit, Barnes stretches a kitchen sink tragedy over two volumes and five hundred pages without flagging. *Love, etc.* succeeds partly through its minor characters, of whom Mme Wyatt remains my favorite. She speaks like a college translation of La Rochefoucault.

*Love, etc* is already being remaindered: a paperback edition is sorely needed. I find that I like Barnes' least popular books best. I must be a fan. After the obligatory *Flaubert's Parrot* and *A History of the World in Ten and a Half Chapters*, look up *The Procopine*, *Cross Channel* and *Love, etc*. They don't disappoint.



## charlotte lamb, *treasons of the heart*

ali jenkins

Before I begin, I must admit that I read this piece of "literature" knowing that it was of the trashy genre. In fact I was so built up to expect bodice-ripping and quivering members that I was willing to forget the one-dimensional characters (beautiful but doesn't know it woman chef living in Paris, mysterious English male photographer who makes the woman chef tremble with excitement) and focus on the excruciating plot and the lead up to the expected bed scenes. Unfortunately I was ripped off even here.

What plot there was involved juxtaposing the story with that of Wallis Simpson and Edward Windsor and their history of Nazi sympathy. The modern characters are stalked because they may have papers which could reveal this "secret" Nice

try at some credible writing. So after being stalked, attacked, almost raped (3 times), kidnapped and almost killed, we do not see the female chef being even slightly effected by the events of the previous three days as she whips up a salad for everyone to share for lunch the next day.

What is the world coming to when my grandmother has to fork out \$12.95 to purchase this book and receives no thrills in exchange? The author may think that she has risen above the average Mills and Boon paperback and created her own genre, but unfortunately there is no "Poorly Written Non-Erotic Romantic Mystery Drama Fiction" section at my bookshop. I suppose Lamb will have to peddle her gold embossed lettering covered books elsewhere.

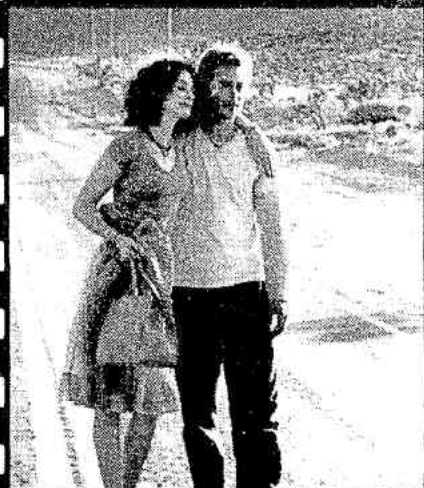


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## alejandra gonzalez inarritu, *amores perros* (love's a bitch)

paul wellington

*Amores Perros* (*Love's a Bitch*) is like Tarrantino doing Argentinian soap opera whilst indulging a preoccupation with dogs and their owners. Two-and-a-half hours, three stories, one love triangle, a long-lost father/militia member/hit-man, a model with one leg, revenge killings, adultery all involving the characters' love for their dog(s). It's complicated, divergent, cinema which looks at:

- 1) Octavio (Gael Garcia Bernal) who puts his dog into street fights for money so that he can 'rescue' his sister-in-law, Susanna (Vanessa Bauche) from her violent marriage;
- 2) Daniel (Alvaro Guerrero) who leaves his wife to live in a rat-infested love-nest with his girlfriend Valeria (Goya Toledo) only to lose her dog under the floorboards;

3) 'The Goat' (Emilio Echevarria) a militia-member turned hit-man who lives with his dogs as a derelict. But he has a mission to right the wrongs of his past.

This film investigates love and how its not always that great. How sometimes you get more compassion from a pet than from a parent or a partner. How sometimes you love that pet more than your partner, and rightly so in some cases. How in the end you can probably depend on your pet dog more than anyone else.

It's an odd film. Essentially it's very good, but it tries to be too clever. It's emotional to the point of farce at times but just occasionally it produces a moment of real pathos or humour and it is these glimpses which make it worthwhile.

## gore verbinski, *the mexican*

will tse

Starring Hollywood's most beautiful, *The Mexican* is one of the most anticipated releases this year. Although it cannot be said that the experience is a let-down, *The Mexican* is by far not the best work of either Julia Roberts or Brad Pitt.

This is the story of brainless crook Jerry Welback (Pitt) and his rambling, angry girlfriend, Samantha Barzel (Roberts). Samantha wants Jerry to become un-crooked while Jerry's 'boss' still has one last 'job' for him to do — in Mexico. So the lovers go their separate ways. Jerry on this job to retrieve a fabled, almost mystical pistol (called 'The Mexican') and Samantha to Las Vegas. Throw in a kidnapping, a shoot out, some Mexican folklore, a murder, a gay character (no, two!), a Mafia-type boss and a mean-looking dog.

We have the ingredients to an enjoyable film, almost.

The downfall occurs where the film's makers attempt to fit into the movie too many twists — making it seem long, even though it isn't. This is a real shame because there are some good gags here, Roberts and Pitt are great actors and the Mexican scenery is beautiful.

I would still recommend this flick, especially now when there is so little on offer in the cinemas.

## wong kar-wai, *in the mood for love*

maud lebowski

One critic has likened the antics depicted in Wong Kar-Wai's film *In The Mood For Love* to the courtship ritual of butterflies. I would prefer to describe it as a piece of 'sub-text' cinema. It explores what you would normally read from in-between the lines rather than concentrate on the 'text' itself.

Set in 1960's Hong Kong, Mrs Chan's (Maggie Cheung) husband is carrying on an affair with the wife of neighbour, Mr Chow (Tony Leung). The audience learns of the affair through the eyes of these soon-to-be jilted characters who slip into an affair of their own with one requirement: that "we won't be like them". The strength of this film is its ambiguity. The almost painful politeness in which the central characters engage contributes to the fact that every scene has several interpretations: you are never quite sure if Mrs Chan and Mr Chow are talking about themselves or their partners.

The main strength of this film is the overall tone which is achieved by Wong Kar-Wai. The soundtrack can only be described as evocative. There is constant repetition of daily routines: the trip to the noodle shop for supper, the drinking of tea, the work-day grind. In contrast Mrs Chan seems to wear a different cheongsam dress in every scene, each one intricate and elegant. Mr Chow dreams of writing martial arts fiction, yet maintains his usual lifestyle. The film seems to be rose-tinted — even though its main thread focuses on what essentially is a tragedy — and I couldn't help thinking that it was operating on some plane which I wasn't quite reaching.

## lukas moodysson, *show me love* (fucking amal)

alex van vollen

In a small Swedish town called Amal, Elin (Alexandra Dahlstrom) is a wild party-girl. She's willing to do any drink or drug and make out with tons of guys to escape the boredom of 'fucking Amal' (the film's original title). Agnes (Rebecca Liljeberg) doesn't seem to buy into the school social scene and she is considered an outcast. Agnes also has a crush on Elin, but Elin never notices until she accidentally goes to the wrong party and her life takes a new direction. After pretending to like Agnes on a dare (and kissing her during the charade), Elin finds that she actually does like her. The attitude of this flick is evident, particularly in the scene where the girls have their first real kiss and Agnes asks, "What are we doing?" only to have Elin reply, "I don't know, but we are so fucking cool".

when you're at a small-town high school and so Elin freaks out, refusing to speak to Agnes and dating Johan (Mathias Rust). Although we can be certain that the girls will get together (because the film is, after all, working within the teen romance formula), Agnes' misery during Elin's panic is heartbreaking. *Show Me Love's* interpretation of this scenario is unique because of the filmmakers' unusual attention to the characters and their refusal to simplify or glamorize what is so often-made simplistic and glamorous.

This film was more successful at the box office than *Titanic* in some European countries. It was screened at the *Springout* Festival in Canberra in 2000, but we are still waiting for it to reach our cinemas for regular screenings.

Unfortunately, kissing a girl doesn't seem so cool



derek jarman, jubilee

penny jones

In the late 70s, so I hear, people were terrified that television would take over their lives. Director Derek Jarman exploited this fear. In his 1978 *Jubilee*, he created a post-Thatcher world, where debauched people raised in front of the television spend their days singing for cash, fucking for kicks and killing their fucks when they get bored.

It begins when Queen Elizabeth I travels into a world of warring punks, dominated by megalomaniac TV mogul, Borgia Ginz. ("Post modern," says the spray paint on a concrete wall, just in case the audience doesn't get it.)

This world is stunning for the level and the variety of its violence. It features body mutilation, amputation, and several different kinds of murder. In one scene, a severed penis is offered as the prize in a game of bingo. In another, a man's lover smothers him with cellophane mid-coitus, takes Polaroids as he dies, and heaves his body into the Thames. As money takes over the world, people become disposable. People also appear disposable — or at least readily exchangeable — in the many sex scenes. Crabs, a beautiful actor, seduces man after man, pursuing love despite the admonitions of her friends. "Why do you encourage them, Crabs?

You'll only get the clap." Most of the other characters are disenchanted, realising that Crabs' hopes of happy matrimony are a sad fantasy out of *Penthouse* and *True Romance*. "Love snuffed it with the hippies," they tell her. "Sex is for geriatrics." And, in spite of Crabs' dreams, her young men never last very long around her murderous friends.

*Jubilee* is currently under consideration for the queer canon. The director, Derek Jarman, was an outspoken gay rights activist. His later works often concentrate on questions of homosexual identity. *Jubilee* deals with gay themes only in passing, with two brothers who spend most of the film together naked.

Canonical or not, this film is the ultimate music video, with Adam and the Ants, Brian Eno, Siouxsie and the Banshees, all crammed into an extravaganza of violence, sex and plotlessness. After *Jubilee*, the director went on to make several music videos for bands including the Pet Shop Boys.

This film would ably set the scene for an excessive retro debauch, complete with fishnets, mirrorballs and lines of talcum powder-ridden drugs.



Jean Claude Forest, Barbarella

miranda tetlow

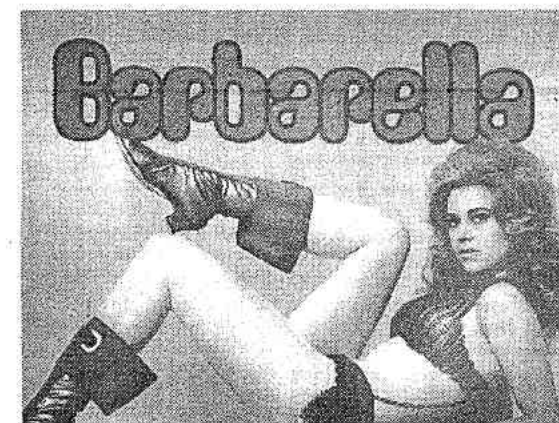
Barbarella is based on a French comic strip by Jean Claude Forest, and the 1968 film loses none of his commitment to combining science fiction with soft porn. Barbarella emerges naked from her cocoon of intergalactic space attire into her spaceship, tastefully lined with brown shag pile carpet from ceiling to floor. She is given a mission from the President of Earth via an ingenious television intercom system (this is the year 40,000, after all), to find the scientist Duran Duran, who mysteriously disappeared years ago, and to retrieve the positronic ray gun. Barbarella is armed in her quest by various twisted silver weapons, a decidedly phallic looking spaceship, a bracelet that translates the intergalactic languages into English and a variety of skimpy metallic and fur costumes, as was the fashion of the time.

The many challenges faced by our irrepressible heroine during the course of her epic journey include struggles with alien children who set sinister porcelain dolls with metal fangs on her, numerous spacecraft crashes, and attempts by Duran to cause her death by erotic pleasure on the orgasm Piano-

Organ. Each time she is rescued by (supposedly) dashing young men, to whom she shows her gratitude by agreeing to make love, despite the fact that this archaic practice has been superseded on Earth by the taking of exultation transference pills. Barbarella must also save the Angel Pygar, escape the invisible wall which traps her with 'The Great Tyrant', a sultry woman who treads the fine line between dominatrix and space pirate, defeat Duran and somehow only lose her clothes 8 or 9 times. It's fabulous stuff.

*Barbarella* is a film with a good sense of the cinematically ridiculous and the science fiction mocking one liners are great. As Barbarella loses Pygar in the crowd, she is suddenly startled by cries, "What's that screaming?" A good many dramatic situations begin with screaming. The incompetent and impotent political revolutionary Dildano is also hilarious, as he informs her that, "There is only one secret key that 'The Tyrant' keeps on her at all times. However, there is a second secret key..."

And there you have it. Barbarella, Queen of space porn, adventure and science fiction wit.



muriel gray, furnace

kirrilee anker

Something is being born. Its growth is unstoppable. Fortunately, this is not another season of the overdone *X-Files*. Rather, Gray takes her readers for a ride with truck driver Josh Spiller, racing across North America in a bid to save his life from something. Since rolling into the bizarre, affluent town of Furnace for a bite to eat, Josh unknowingly falls into a nightmare of sorcery and trickery. It is here, by accident that he takes the life of a newborn child after local Councilor, Nelly McFarlane pushes its pram under the wheels of his beloved semi, Jezebel. It is here where everyone who saw, denies seeing it. And it's all down to a strange strip of paper that will either save or take his life. To add to that, his pregnant girlfriend back home doesn't know what to do with her baby and the longer Josh is away, the easier her decision becomes. Admittedly,

it takes a little time to wade through the beginning and its background detail, but once there, the pages will keep you up past 2am. Gray takes her readers into Josh Spiller's big heart and keeps them there to feel every inch of pain and terror he encounters. Full of unrealism, but written so believably, Gray weaves in a range of different narratives where the only confusion you come across, is confusion Gray put there on purpose. Described as a rival to Stephen King, *Furnace* follows as the second of Muriel Gray's novels. However, think Stephen King with originality and without the manufacturing.



## anu students' association FIRST QUARTER REPORT

students' association executive

### 1. Summary

The Students' Association this year has broadly pursued four aims to ensure better Welfare and Services to students at the ANU. These aims are:

**Representation of Students** — this is at the core of what we do and is our most important function. This year we have not only represented students at a large variety of levels extending from Council to Faculty Boards but we have been proactive in our representation with our Students' Charter concept and improved communication with the student body.

#### Providing Better Services —

This year we have continued to deliver our core services such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Bookshop and the Welfare Officer but we are also working hard to bring another service to students — Free Legal Advice.

**Promotion of the Students' Association** — We have tried to be even more visible than last year for students with a great O-Week, mass emailing and communication with student groups including Colleges, International Students and other interest groups.

**Improvements in Internal Organisation** — Our aim is to spend student money in an accountable and efficient manner. We are improving transparency in our processes and we are working very hard to ensure that we deliver the best possible outcomes. We hope that the undergraduate student community and the ANU generally are improved by our work. We are always interested in student concerns and in student rights and we encourage further participation from students so that we can maintain a high quality of work. You can contact us through our website contact lists (<http://student.anu.edu.au/association/>).

### 2. First Quarter Achievements

#### Representation of Students'

\* Sent in a submission for the Senate Higher Education Review.

\* University Obligations Document presented to the VC and DVC in January covering a large variety of issues about the university including Accommodation, Library Hours and Lecturing standards.

\* Monthly DVC meetings negotiating progress on the above issues.

\* Four University Council Meetings where representations have been made about Library Hours, University Publicity as well as overlooking the university's changing internal structure.

\* Two Finance Committee meetings where we pushed for the abolition of the Faculty Debt and saving the Noel Butlin archives amongst other issues. We also maintained a line of pushing for equitable treatment of students.

\* Four Board of the Faculty and Steering Committee for Board of the Faculty meetings with a student meeting to discuss the issues held in advance. Pushed for increased student choice by having lecture notes available on the web.

\* Four Student Support Services

meetings where the Students' Association pushed for services to be better coordinated and advertised.

\* Four Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings where we pushed for car parking not to be subsumed by more buildings and for the campus to look nicer.

\* Campus Advisory Committee meetings to check on developments on campus and attending lighting audits to push for better security.

\* Regular meetings with the Postgraduate Students' Association to develop cooperative approaches to representation.

\* Regular meetings with the Library Administration pushing for better advertising of Appeals Processes, more Library Hours, Library opening over Easter and better advertising of the ways to access the Library Website from off campus.

\* Our Faculty Representatives have been attending Faculty Boards this year to represent your concerns at a local area.

\* Six Enterprise Solutions Project Meetings to discuss the new administrative software being implemented in the ANU. Specifically we pushed for Course Load to be maintained on student cards (to protect student concessions) and for Year-In-Asia students not to be disadvantaged by any changes.

\* Met with the Counselling Centre to look at issues affecting first year students at the ANU (we have a first year drop out rate of about 33%).

\* We have presented a standard for Course Outlines to Faculty Secretaries to ensure clearer unit organization in the future.

#### Listening to Students

\* Implemented Students' Charter Process again this year aimed at getting a variety of student responses including Colleges, International Students', Women's Movement on campus, Environmental Concerns as well as Educational Concerns from a variety of interest groups.

\* Held two meetings with College Residents' Association Presidents to carry forward college residents' concerns to administration.

\* We pursued 19 academic advocacy cases in the past term on educational and administrative concerns students' have with Administration.

#### Providing Better Services

\* Improved Bookshop library hours by hiring extra staff over the first three weeks of this semester.

\* Held a BBQ last term sponsored by Students' Association money.

\* Our welfare officer has provided advice to students about Welfare rights including a lot on Centrelink and the Youth Allowance system.

\* We gave out 4000 free Show bags in O-Week.

\* Held two BBQs and a Champagne Breakfast in O-Week for students.

\* Held "A Student Odyssey" with over a 1000 students attending. This was also a safe event with college volunteers and SA representatives providing escorts and constant

surveillance.

\* We have worked hard to get a proposal together for a Free Legal Services for students' at the ANU.

\* We ran the most successful Market Day in years offering over a 100 clubs and societies for students to choose from.

#### Promotion of the Students' Association

##### To students

\* Meetings with the College Presidents to promote the Association.

\* We negotiated and acquired the right to send out mass emails to all ANU students this year (new promotion).

\* A poster and pamphlet campaign in O-Week to advertise our events and services. We reached Union Court, Copland, Science (including Forestry), the Colleges, ITA, the Music School and the Law School.

\* We hold BBQs where we try to distribute information about our services.

\* We attended the Tutors Training Seminar in February and discussed our services and opportunities and distributed information.

\* We have set up an egroup and send out regular updates about events and services.

\* We have contributed reports to every issue of *Woroni*.

\* We have attended and contributed to club events and continue to promote co-operation.

\* We have attended an international student orientation event to improve our profile for international and exchange students.

\* We have dramatically improved our website for appearance and information distribution. A full Clubs and Societies listing is now available along with a host of information about a variety of issues (<http://student.anu.edu.au/association/>).

\* We gave speeches to new first year students in Melville Hall as well as new Music School students and new students to the Institute of the Arts.

##### To the community

\* We have attracted Media attention on issues such as O-Week, the Faculty Debt, the National Day of Action and the new Medical School.

\* We have negotiated with *The Canberra Times* to get student input into their paper and have recently published our first article.

\* We made an introductory speech to new staff in March.

\* We have supported many positive university initiatives especially the Sexual Discrimination and Harassment Census. In addition we helped with the VC's Awards in Excellence in Teaching.

\* We have met with representatives of the National Union of Students as well as James Cook University to improve communication between student representatives nationally.

#### Improvements in Internal Organisation

\* We have set about improving accountability in the Association by reviewing our Combined Representative Council to make it



# anu students' association FIRST QUARTER REPORT

# clubs

more effective.

\* We have set goals and benchmarks for achievement in 2001 in order to maintain a professional and efficient organization that is more accountable to its members.

\* Held Student Representative Council and Faculty Representative Council training days to share information and experience with representatives new to the Students' Association and to develop working relationships.

\* We have worked to censor defamatory, sexist, racist and homophobic material from student publications.

\* We have developed a system for cataloguing SA policies for future administrations.

\* Have produced meeting schedules, Agendas and Minutes to a high standard for debate and usefulness.

\* Have worked with the Education, Women's, Sexuality and Environmental Departments to support their work and represent their concerns.

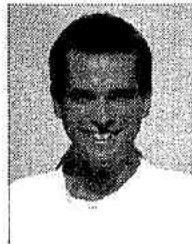
\* Have held 6 quorate SRC meetings and three FRC meetings. Held an Ordinary General Meeting for students. We also held a Combined Representative Council meeting to ensure accountability of student funds.

\* We have complied with complicated GST requirements due to legislative changes.

\* We have maintained a payroll of two full time employees providing Administrative and Welfare Advice assistance.

\* We have maintained a good credit rating with our efficient invoice payment system.

\* The proposed budget was passed at the First Term Ordinary General Meeting enshrining line items for legal advice and continuing good practices from the past including a roll over fund for long term liabilities like computer depreciation. We also increased funding to all of the departments due to a slight budgeted operating surplus found by last year's treasurer.



## 3. Strategic Direction for Term 2

### Representation of Students'

\* Continue to represent students in all committee positions with respect to being effective and efficient contributors in University debates.

### Listening to student concerns

\* BBQs.

\* Have an SA Stall at social events to provide an opportunity for students to approach SA representatives to discuss issues.

\* Organise open forums to generate discussion and develop policies.

### Promotion of the Students' Association

#### To students

\* Have regular SA Stalls to promote the SA to the student body.

\* Give SA reports and updates at College AGMs.

\* Produce a First Quarter Report and promote it through various channels:

Wk 1 - SA Stall at Freakin Creek

Wk 2 - SA Stall at the SA BBQ

Wk 3 - Woroni, computer rooms and pamphletting

Wk 4 - AGM

Wk 5 - Send an email to all students

Wk 6 - SA Stall at SA BBQ

#### To the community

\* Promoting the SA in the Media.

\* Investigate community events for the SA to promote and possibly sponsor.

\* Encourage clubs and societies to acknowledge SA funding and display the SA logo at social events.

\* Request Sub-departments to acknowledge the SA's contribution at social events.

\* Lend SA resources in exchange for acknowledgment of the SA.

### Providing Better Student Services

\* Provide Free Legal Advice in the SA.

\* Provide Free Tea and Coffee in the SA with a 'Bring your own mug' policy.

\* Produce and distribute a C&S Booklet to foster club growth.

### Improvements in Internal Organisation

\* Investigate the viability of auditing the SA with students to improve efficiency.

### Human Resource Management in the SA

\* Correlate a record of SA representatives' contributions so far this year.

\* Investigate the possibility of having a workplace for SA representatives.

\* Form committees to work on projects.

### Constitutional Reform/Review

\* Institute Duty Statements for all SA Representatives.

\* Implement the proposals of the CRC Review Committee.

## 4. Important Dates

May 10<sup>th</sup> BBQ Union Court

June 7<sup>th</sup> BBQ Union Court

Annual General Meeting (HAYDON ALLEN TANK)

Monday 21st May at 12.00pm in the HA Tank

Student Representative Council (SA Conference Room):

Monday 14th May at 5.30pm

Monday 28th May at 5.30pm

Monday 4th June at 5.30pm

Faculty Representative Council (SA Conference Room):

Wednesday 16th May at 6.00pm

Wednesday 6th June at 6.00pm

Combined Representative Council (SA Conference Room):

Monday 7th May at 5.00pm

Education Department (HAGOS2):

Every Tuesday at 1.00pm in HA G052

Environment Collective (SA Conference Room):

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

Every Friday at 12.30pm

Queer Collective (SA Conference Room):

Thursday 3rd May at 1.00pm

Thursday 17th May at 1.00pm

Thursday 31st May at 1.00pm

Thursday June 7th at 1.00pm

Women's Collective (SA Conference Room):

Every second Monday at 1.30pm

## 5. Thank You

\* *Woroni* for its help in writing articles

for *The Canberra Times*.

\* Everyone who helped in O-Week including all the Departments (Women's, Sexuality, Environment and Education), ISSANU and general students' who came to help. Special thanks to Bek Hamed, Murphy Peoples and Gabby Banens for their support.

\* The General and Faculty Representatives who have consistently supported, contributed and advanced our aims to deliver a quality Students' Association to the students' of the ANU.

\* Dr Pat Miller, Dr Michael Green, the International Education Office, all the support services for all their help in student representation this year.

\* Rahni Ennor, the outgoing President of the Postgraduate Students Association for her advice and help in providing representation.

\* The new Vice-Chancellor for freezing the Faculty, keeping the Noel Butlin Archives alive for another year and agreeing to a pro-undergraduate student strategy for his term in office.

\* Nigel Tao, the previous web site manager, for his voluntary work.

\* Keara for working hard as an extra bookshop assistant during the first three weeks of term.

\* The Student Representatives who helped with the ANU Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Census.

\* The College Presidents and students who have helped us in O-Week and in distributing important information across campus.

\* Anyone that we have missed, you were cool and we love you.



ANU STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY, 21ST MAY 2001  
12 PM  
HAYDON ALLEN TANK

## clubs & societies — join the social a-list

### The Slayer Society ANU

Catch up on classic Buffy episodes, every second Sunday of the month at Manning Clark Lecture Theatre One, starting at 1pm. Each session will range from two to four episodes, starting where the previous session left off. FREE for 2001 Slayer Society members, or join at the door. More info? [slayersoc@mail.com](mailto:slayersoc@mail.com) or 0402 844 733.

### Sri Chinmoy meditation

Those who were at the ANU a few years ago might recall that the only on-campus meditation classes were held by the Sri Chinmoy Centre (yes, the same people who do the triathlons). Now the Uni has a choice of meditation groups, but the Centre has still had plenty of requests from students (and counselors), asking them to return to join in the fun. If you'd like to explore your inner

potential (or simply relax, for heaven's sake), come along to what was once a ritual among many students: the **Sri Chinmoy Meditation Classes**. A five-week course will be held at the Counselling Centre each Monday, from 7th May to 4th June, from 1:00 to 2:00pm. Feel free to rock up. Phone 6248 0232 or 0413 474 597 for more details.

### Aid programs in East and West Timor, public meeting.

A report on recent progress in village development activities by local and overseas NGO's. Speakers will be Dr. Colin Barlow (RSPAS) and Dr. Ria Gondowarsito. Both have just returned from the region. To be held in Manning Clark Theatre 5, Friday 1 June, 12:30 pm. Sponsored by the Nusatenggara Association. Enquiries: 62951439

## environment officer's report

christal george

Dahlings. Environment love is not religion. It is love of the planet, love of others and love of the self. Interpret that as you will.

Question everything. Laugh lots. Six planets. Ha ha.

Go along to get along? The enviro collective revolves around community action. We are completing projects that are within our sphere of influence.

There are little, medium and bigger goals to achieve. Email [enviro.collective@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:enviro.collective@student.anu.edu.au) - a sharp, snappy online newsletter will be sent your way. Be amused, find some thing you might like to do or go to.



Why are we here? [Insert the obvious here] knows. But we do all happen to be here. Interconnectedness. I am yet to meet anyone who lives in a vacuum. If you do happen to know of anyone, please call 6125 9869. Are vacuums peaceful? Boring? Lonely? The National How-To Sustainable Unis Kit is coming out in the next couple of weeks and ANU features as a kick ass case study. Also, Students and Sustainability Conference in Newcastle is coming up in next holidays if you would like to go. And if all else fails then remember, if you cant make friends make a cake! Freedom and respect. Always. xox

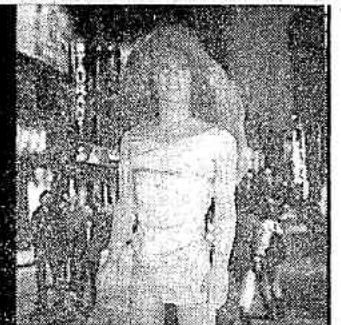


# The 'Strine

**Hampsterdance: Richard Gere launches album**



**Ken wins Mattel test case**



## God Releases Apology For Puffy Coombs Verdict

Gillian Tidwinkle

God, the omnipotent being responsible for the creation and maintenance of the world, has apologised for intervening in the Puff Daddy criminal trial. Puff Daddy thanked God for saving him from criminal charges. Puff Daddy also thanked his lawyers.

God, speaking through a medium in a small Christian sect called Little Pebble, stated that, "I really did not know what I was doing. You know ever since the world population hit 6 billion and the missionaries went to Africa and Asia, I have been receiving an excessive amount onumber."

God added, "sure, Puff Daddy probably shot somebody but he also prayed every night, wore a big cross, and goes to church every Sunday. I just felt an obligation to help."

Once God realised that by releasing Puff Daddy he would lead to an

increase in bubble-gum, latin-American pop, and derivative Hip hop he was distressed, "I shouldn't have got involved," he said.

According to the medium Elijah Smith Moses De Jesus, "there has been a lot of passing the buck going on in Heaven. Ever since they developed this three way administrative decisions process, departments have been passing decisions between each other. So, sometimes some cases don't get investigated as efficiently as they should."

While God has issued a denial through the Bible, claiming that he, the holy spirit, and the son are one, Elijah said, "this is an in principle amalgamation. Sometimes the departments don't get along and that's why people like Puffy Coombs get off the hook."

God added to his statement that, "I will be unable to reverse my work, as according to popular Christian dogma



*Puffy claims divine inspiration for lyrics.*

I am only responsible for making dreams come true; people are responsible for bad stuff." This has led to music lovers around the globe praying for the early accidental death of Puff Daddy.

Puff Daddy has thanked God with more prayers and his lawyers with bags of money.

## Regional Spending Scandal: ACCESS Economics Slams 'Vote Buying'

Jocasta Lovesit

Access Economics, a rightist think tank, has slammed the Howard government for "spending billions buying votes through regional initiatives and tax cuts." "The government is spending far more than the market price on votes," said Professor Handler. "Our research indicates that the average vote has a marginal cost of twelve hundred dollars, but the government has been spending up to ten times that much." Professor Handler criticised the twenty five thousand dollars compensation paid to each ex-prisoner of war. "These people are so senile and conservative that they are likely to die or vote for Menzies," he said.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has accused the major parties of uncompetitive vote buying practices, following the Sheperdson Inquiry. Professor Allan Fells, who chairs the Commission, will investigate the wide disparity in the cost of votes between states. "Votes in Queensland seem to cost thirty or forty dollars, whereas Tasmanian votes can cost fifteen thousand dollars each," he said. Prof. Fells acknowledged claims that Tasmanian Senate votes were of a higher quality than those from the Eastern states.

## Space Tourist Complains About Natives

Genni Taylor

The world's first space tourist, American billionaire Dennis Tito, has labelled the natives "grotty and greedy".



*(Above) "I want to press the green button". Astronauts attempt to restrain bored space tourist Tito as he plays aboard the rocket.*

Tito set off on a Russian rocket last Saturday, despite anger from American space agency NASA that \$US20 million could buy an inexperienced civilian a place in a space mission, possibly jeopardising the safety of the astronauts.

The beginning of his trip went smoothly. The Russian pilots took turns singing songs and performing traditional dances for the American, and gave him a Nintendo when he became bored with culture. Tito, however, quickly tired of his companions. "I pay \$20 million bucks, and all they can give me for company is a bunch of men? There are only a couple of women, and they aren't even pretty in those ugly space suits. I'm going back to Thailand. The natives are so much more friendly there."

Tito also bemoaned his co-astronauts' ignorance of spirituality. "I thought everyone here would be so, deep, you know, with all this cosmic energy. Kinda like Tibet, only without the prayer beads. But in reality these space people are only interested in my money."

Saraswati Wilson, manager of US

travel company, Dharma in a Day, said Tito's dissatisfaction with space was statistically predictable. "American religious seekers prefer the offerings of countries with beaches, large debts and at least 40% illiteracy." She suggested that her own company might be more suited to Tito's needs. "Enlightenment is guaranteed within 24 hours, and we provide complimentary beverages and tour guides."

Even the food was beneath Tito's high standards. The French Fries were "soggy" and the juice gave him "the trots". The shrewd entrepreneur, however, saw a business opportunity even in his misfortune. "I've lost a lot of weight since I came into space, which is good, because I was getting a bit of a pot belly. So I've talked to the Russians, and we're considering starting up a Weight Watchers program in space." Space Station commander Yuri Usachev declined to comment on the proposed weight loss program. He did, however, praise Tito for his ebullient pioneer spirit. "He's a lovely man. Very generous with his affection."

## Big Brother: New Ruddock Show Rates Poorly

Ophelia Dix

Despite stars including a Korean brothel madam, a Saudi Arabian bondage mistress and a Pakistani self-immolator, Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock's new game show, *Big Brother*, has rated poorly with TV audiences. The reality TV show features 12 illegal immigrants from around the world, and the Australian public votes by telephone to send one person back to their own country each week.

"The eviction scheme is designed to eliminate queue jumpers," said Ruddock. "Everyone knows that only one in 12 of these asylum seekers is a real refugee. Take Ayesha, the bondage mistress from Malaysia. She's about to get voted off the show this week. Why? Because the Australian public knows that no bondage mistress would ever face danger in Malaysia."

The 12 participants, selected from among the thousands of illegal immigrants arriving in Australia, share a single room in a suburban Australian house. Their lives are filmed constantly, and broadcast around the country. They must share a total of one hour of hot water per day, and a weekly budget of \$270. They may not use clocks, calendars, writing equipment or electronic goods.

6 year old Afghani girl, Naseem, who came to the show after two years at South Australia's Woomera Detention Centre, broke down crying in the Diary Room as she thanked 'Daddy Ruddock' for allowing her to appear in *Big Brother*. "The ride in the police van was a bit rough, but my tuberculosis is improving every day, and this house is so much better than Woomera. I have eleven wonderful room-mates and fresh gruel almost every day."

Show participants must undertake weekly challenges, to prove their worth as potential "real Aussies".

This week, in the tradition of the great Australian barbecue, house members had to keep an outdoor fire burning continually, through rain and wind, for 78 hours. One Pakistani contestant threw himself into the fire, in what Ruddock labelled a "publicity stunt". "He wanted us to let his cerebral palsy daughter into the country, which is ridiculous. It's totally beyond the show's luxury budget."

Given these dramatic elements, even the experts are at a loss to explain the show's failure. Although viewers in Ipswich embraced the series, with calls from the Queensland town accounting for the majority of "eviction votes" in the country, *Big Brother* did not even make it into Canberra's top 20 most-watched programs.

National Party MP, Dee Anne Kelly, claimed that the disturbing content of the show had turned off decent Australian viewers. "That self-immolation scene was revolting," she said, "that Paki used some disgusting language, utterly unsuitable for Australia's children."



(Clockwise) Dramatic shots from the *Big Brother* cameras: Sudanese contestants participate in the 'flood challenge'; Afghani girl, Naseem, thanks 'Daddy Ruddock' for her daily gruel; bondage mistress Ayesha and her son.

Ten News, which has featured daily updates on the show, announced a new strategy. "People are bored with refugees and funny accents. Tonight's bulletin will have a funky new soundtrack and a focus on the Toilet Cam."

## Refugee Claims False Advertising

Logan Lovelace

A refugee from Afghanistan has lashed out at the Australian government after being placed in accommodation which he considered to be sub-standard. According to the refugee, the accommodation did not match the pamphlet he received in his homeland. Mr Shifraz stated that, "I read the League of Rights newsletter, Pauline Hanson's One Nation magazine, and the Liberal Party of Australia website, and they all say detention centres are five-star hotels with big meals, nice showers and warm beds. Mr Shifraz was severely depressed when he found barbed wire around

the five star hotel, that stopped him enjoying the scenery, and was also distressed by the facilities. "This is the only Five Star hotel in the world where I have not received any running water, and have been stripped searched before dinner" said Shifraz.

Australian Immigration Minister, Mr Philip Ruddock, rejected the false advertising claim stating that, "while our detention centres may not be quite up to Hilton standards, they are five star hotels if you compare them to detention centres/labour camps in Congo, Rwanda, Burma, and Mexico."

## Revolution: Café Shut Down

Bob Ajob

Organisers are calling M1 a success after the protesters drove a small café near the stock exchange out of business. Among the other achievements of M1, was the scaring of geologists in Canberra.

The protest organizers were very happy, according to leader Kip Jones, "It [the small café] was always a symbol of capitalist oppression particularly by the petite bourgeoisie, who are agents for Bill Gates and the ruling class, posing as poor ethnics". He added that the owner of the café did not serve the protestors, "quality coffee". Jane, a 17 year old student from Geelong Grammar, and one of the leaders of the attempted revolution, said she was "sick of these small business owners and workers not showing me any respect, I mean its about time the workers got behind their fan club, otherwise we just wont let them be part of our revolution."

The worldwide socialist forces were frustrated that M1 failed to amount to a fully fledged revolution despite the clever catchy chants and senseless violence throughout the western world. ANU socialist leader, Fred, indicated that, "we were saddened that the revolution did not come about, however, it's probably for the best. Had we been successful, we were not really ready to rule, I mean lead the working class towards a utopian state. We just haven't quite been able to get cohesion between all 47 of the movements, 63 minority causes, and 74 types of oppression embodied in M1."

M1 in Canberra was a successful day with several coffee shops recording a rise in trade after around 1pm.

Another attempted revolution is planned in Canberra next year on the same day.

## PM To Audition For *Survivor*

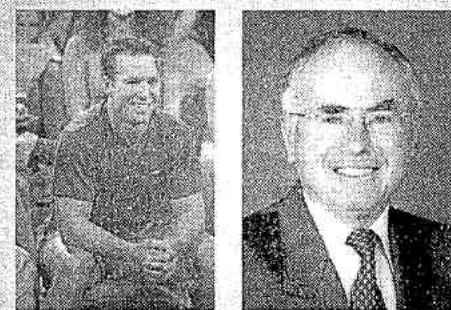
"Matilda" Fordinggrass-Mavis

After including the street names for drugs in his recent pamphlet, Howard has announced his latest bid for the 'youth vote' with his plan to audition for the Australian version of *Survivor*. Having watched the 3 hour finale special with pizza and a shandy or two (the devil), Howard was inspired to apply. The Prime Minister will base his application on that of Colby, Runner Up on the recent *Survivor II: The Australian Outback*. Howard said in a recent press conference that, "Colby's

meat axe physique and ability with the ladies, alongside his quasi-sexual relationship with his mother most resemble my own personality and presence."

Not to be outdone, Peter Costello plans also to audition for the upcoming series and is already busily workshopping his own application tape with a roll of butchers paper and a packet of textas. Costello has not ruled out the possibility of an alliance or 'merge' with the Prime Minister, but declares that his plan "will depend purely on

strategy". However, the Treasurer did say that, "if Howard votes against me at Tribal Council, he's uninvited to my birthday party." A 10 year old boy buying lollies at the Lyneham shops declined to comment.



(Left to right) *Survivor's* Colby and Mr Howard. Note the similarities in their trendy hairstyles and relaxed attire.



# 'Strine Life

## Chez Ginz

Borgia Ginz

I'd like to thank the editors for letting me introduce *Woroni* readers to my family. The Prime Minister and I value family very much indeed. Isn't it nice to be able to agree with a conservative government!

You would all be aware that I live with my mother, who is regrettably bed ridden. None of us are sure what's wrong with her. She had *mal de siècle* until the early eighties, when it became low class. It was *fin du monde* throughout the nineties. To be completely frank, I sometimes think she suffers from *Vickers* and bad hair. Ever



since I was ten she's called me "her little *Bombay Sapphire*". You could say that tonic water is my *madeleine*, Dahlings. Mother tends to avoid visitors, so I can't show you the cellar, but she puts on a lovely spread for the CWA.

We share our wonderful home with Dr. Lukoshenko and Brett. They are technically boarders, but I love them like the siblings I never had. Dr. Lukoshenko was a godsend. It's so hard to find menials with qualifications. Admittedly it's been easier since Eastern Europe started disgorging emigres with PhDs in useless brands of dialectical pharmacology from Minsk Tech. It is so much nicer to be able to say, "Dr

Lukoshenko, tie my laces," or "Dr. Lukoshenko that porcelain isn't shiny enough. I want to see your face in it." So much more refined than waiting until they paddle in on some ghastly boat. And detention centres can be so dehumanising. Dr. Lukoshenko has been helpful with my academic career as well. Whenever I want to get published in *Social Text* or *Australian Left Review* I tell him I want a neo-Marxist interpretation of *Wuthering Heights* and go off to Sydney for the weekend. And don't forget the silver, or the tiles. You will have noticed Brett. He's the one who's been in the corner for the last year reading the same copy of *Quadrant*. (Tragic really, so stupid he can't make sense of Paddy M. Bit like Paddy M. I suppose.) It's a long story. I always wanted sex slaves, but I hatched my killer plan at ICBM, Canberra's *boite de nuit slappée*. At ICBM I

found at least ten people who were my perfect match, from the cerebral cortex down. That's where Dr. Lukoshenko came in handy. He devised a simple procedure with turned trash into sex automata. Don't worry Dahlings. It's all neurosurgery, so Brett's not GM. Dr. Lukoshenko's procedure was worth it, although there are drawbacks: it takes a certain amount of force feeding and electrification to get Brett going. I have had to reconcile myself to the fact that within another six months Brett will lose muscle tone and the will to grunt. But you don't want to hear about my trite little domestic tragedies. Brett and Dr. Lukoshenko are my angels. Who said refugees and the mentally retarded are a burden?

laughable.





# plastic is no barrier

## erotic short story competition

Got the will but no genitals? Get your erotic thrills vicariously, through *Woroni's* inaugural Erotic Short Story Competition.

Send your entries, of 200 to 600 words, to [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au), by 29<sup>th</sup> May. Competition will be judged by the lechers in *Woroni*, with extra points awarded to stories featuring Barbie's Campervan and Ken's pet beagle. The winner will receive a copy of the celebrated novel, *College Firsts*.

Thanks to the anonymous artist, who stuck these photos in the Uni Bar toilets, and to Alison Heard, who stole them for us.



Nef

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